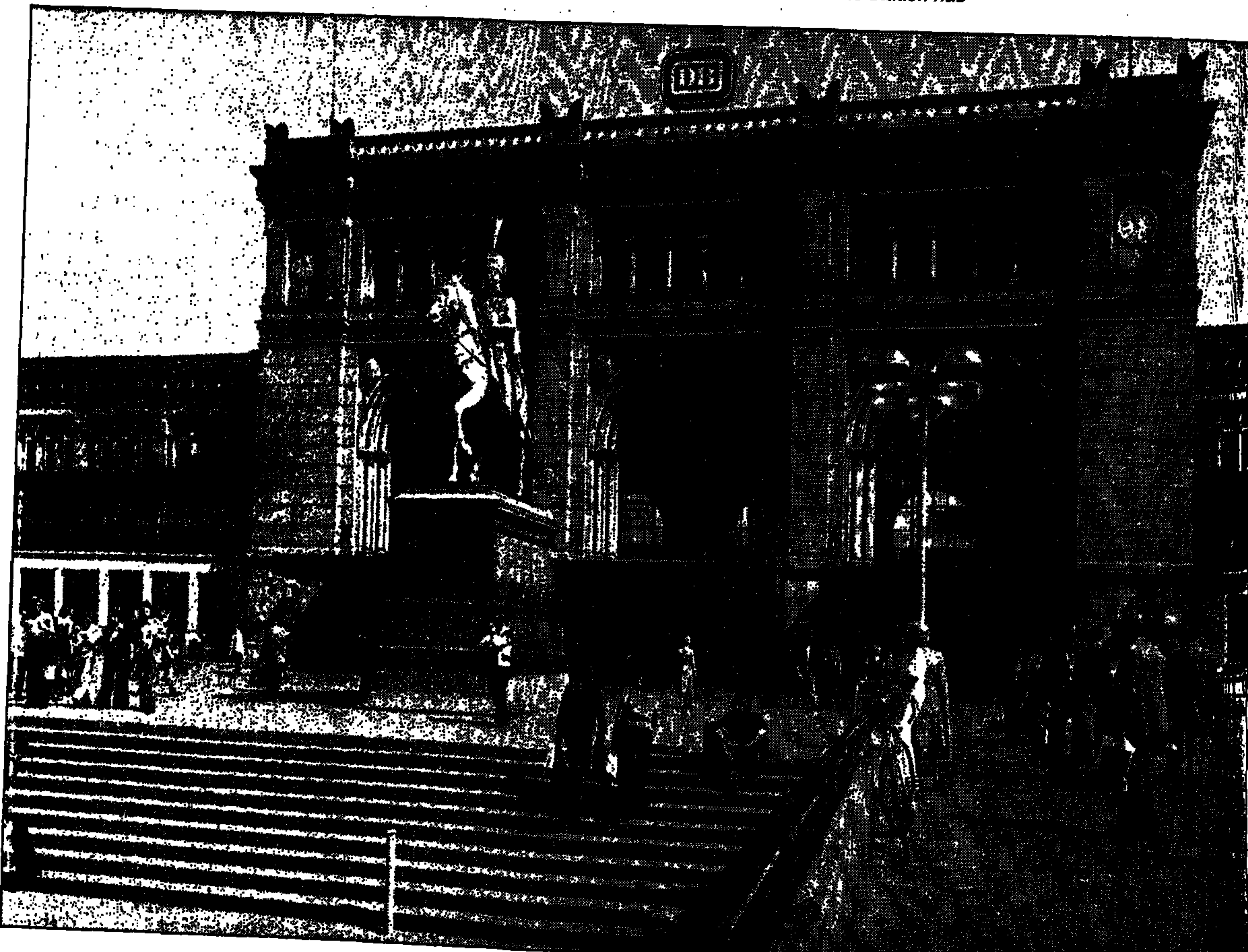
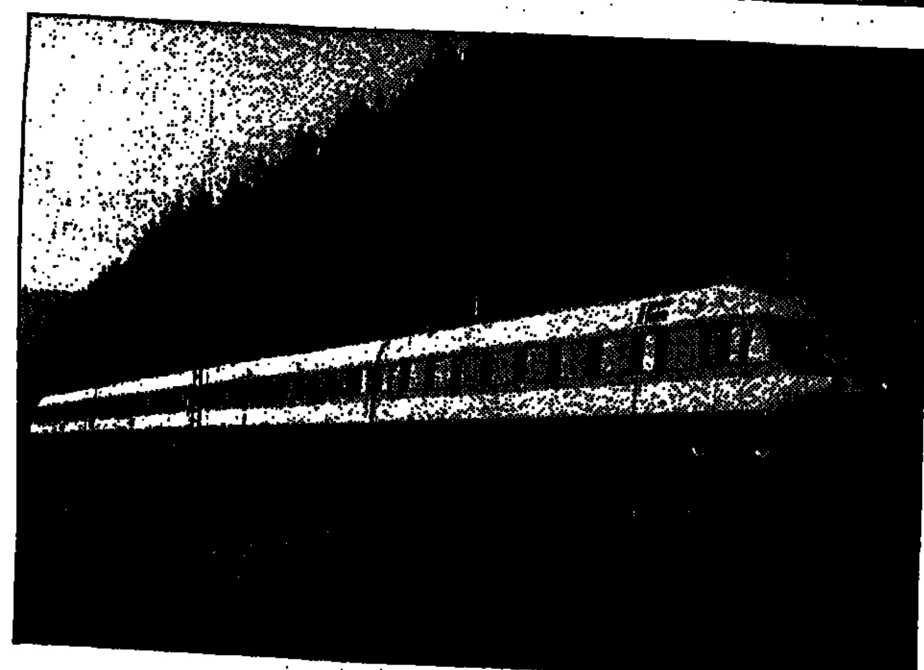
Trains and stations in Germany

How sad, you may say, that the days of the steam engine in Old Germany are numbered. It has been replaced over a period of time by fast and elegant trains, such as the ET 403, as well as by the world's most advanced inter-city system. Small and large cities are connected with each other in an hourly cycle. However: On some secondary lines small steam engines are still working and one occasionally sees the express engine 01 that was built during the roaring Twenties. A lively past can also be found in beautiful old stations. For example, in Hanover, where the inside of the station has been modernised but the outsi left unchanged for 100 years, or 120 year old station of Preetz ne Lübeck. A dream railway line ru from the Rhine through the narrow Acher valley to the Black Forest.





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Dayan's visit leaves many questions

Seldom has the Bonn Foreign Office felt so irritated. Never before has West German policy on the Middle East been criticised so bluntly by the country that is traditionally Bonn's most important partner in the region.

Seldom has a dazed and confused public opinion been given such scant explanation for so challenging a set of contradictions.

Despite Chancellor Schmidt's soothing words (and his gratifyingly clear comments on the PLO) question marks still litter the path of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's visit to Bonn.

One is specially salient: how is Bonn's Middle East policy, always assuming it is governed by a clear and unmistakable concept, to avoid intensifying what may turn out to be an ominous rupture in ties with the State of Israel?

Is there a bridge between the explicit West German demand for self-determination for the Palestinians on the one hand and the uncompromising rejection of this postulate by Israel on the other?

This is the kernel of the problem to *which Bonn must find an answer that* fits as neatly as possible into place within the framework of its commitment to a uniform EEC policy on the Middle East.

It is a tall order the magnitude of which has been clearly apparent despite Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's bids to pave the way for relaxation of tension in the anti-Israel Arab front.

The task is indeed so difficult that some distortion was, perhaps, inevitable in Bonn's view of Middle Eastern affairs.

Herr Genscher was certainly firmly rebuked by Mr Dayan, and his good-neighbourly determination to promote harmony was seemingly disavowed by the *vigilant defence strategist from* Jerusalem.

The soldier cold-shouldered the civilian. Was he right to do so?

Motivation research can quietly be set aside. A man such as Moshe Dayan who is by no means uncontroversial either in Israel or in the Israeli Cabinet is bound to pursue foreign policy with a weather eye on its effect back home.

So, for that matter, is Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who feels bound to show the flag in view of the foreign policy gestures by others in the Bonn coalition, from the Chancellor downwards.

There is no explanation to account for Mr Dayan's attempt to deny that he had dealt, in his talks with Herr Genscher and Herr Schmidt, with policy on Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

But why he sought to do so is, in the final analysis, immaterial. Views differ (if differ they will) on self-determination for the Palestinians.

Self-determination, let it be added, presupposes a peace settlement acknowledging Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

Both viewpoints, Bonn's and Jerusalem's, must be taken seriously. Both are, as it were, irrevocable.

It is indeed another matter whether Herr Genscher was well advised to make the demand for Palestinian self-determination the trade mark (not such a brand new one, mind you) of Bonn's Middle East policy.

It is yet another whether the Foreign Minister was right to advocate this demand on his recent tour of the front-line Arab States or in dealings with President Sadat.

But in principle Bonn could not, even in a Palestinian context, dispense with this demand without forfeiting credibility and any claim to political morality.

On the other hand the Israelis were bound to see this move as the spearhead of a political and diplomatic bid to exert influence with ominous repercussions.

It does, after all, explicitly go beyond the terms of both the Camp David agreement and the 1977 EEC declaration.

What else, the Israelis ask, can result from adding "homeland" and "self-determination" for the Palestinians than a Palestinian State, a target that goes far beyond the sights set at Camp David?

Yet in practical implementation of what in principle appear to be unbridgeable viewpoints Israel's position can indeed be reconciled with Bonn's.

Herr Genscher himself intimated as much, while Mr Dayan also dwelt on the possibility, albeit in a somewhat extreme interpretation.

The Israeli Foreign Minister referred to his country's right to veto any form of self-determination for the Palestinians, and the same applies to any application of the right.

Bonn must naturally abide by this right. It cannot by peaceful means be implemented against the will of those concerned (or even one of the parties concerned) in the political environs.

The German Question too can only *be solved constitutionally within the* framework of a European peace settlement.

But as long as Israel is not prepared to go beyond the terms of the Camp David agreement any call for Palestinian self-determination is bound to be taken as a gesture of encouragement to the PLO in the West Bank.

Vital security interests may indeed preclude the possibility of Israel going beyond the Camp David terms, but Mr Dayan certainly took Bonn's viewpoint to constitute encouragement of the PLO.

It was an obvious inference, since Bonn's Middle East policy did not go into satisfactory detail on the circumstances in which this Palestinian right was envisaged.

Mr Dayan certainly played this card for all it was worth, no doubt hoping to bring about a wholesome shock. Bonn ought not to brood over its displeasure.

The Germans have an opportunity of helping to bring about clarity and understanding in a European framework.

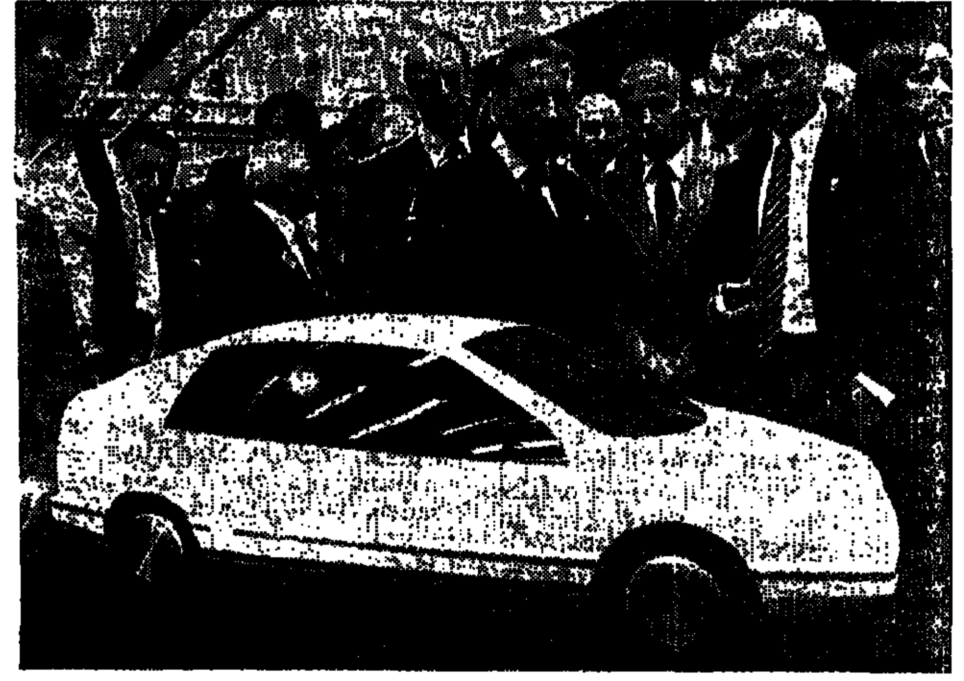
There is, when all is said and done, a growing inclination within the Nine (an inclination inspired by France) to accept the PLO as an indispensable factor in its assessment of tension in the Middle East.

It would be an ironic feature of the special relationship between Germans and Jews if, in the aftermath of this discord, the Germans of all people were to don the mantle of an alibi and helper in the exertion of stronger European pressure on the State of Israel.

Friedhelm Kemna

(Die Welt, 17 September 1979)

IN THIS ISSUE



Motor show opens

The 48th international motor show opened last week in Frankfurt. With a total of 1,363 exhibits from 39 countries, it is the biggest motor show in the world. Pictured standing before a Volkswagen "Model of the Future" are VW chief Toni Schmücker (right) and Bonn Transport Minister Kurt Gscheidle. (Photo: dpa)

Moscow says Bonn's development aid is 'form of aggression'

West German development aid was called a "special form of aggression" on 13 September by *Socialist Industry*, the leading Soviet economic review edited for and published by the CPSU central committee.

Bonn's development aid was allegedly no more and no less than part of an overall strategic concept to coerce developing countries to forgo their national independence.

Its aim was to force them to throw open their home markets, to supply the West with manpower and resources and to allow the monopolies to run their economies at will.

This attack was written by Oleg Nikoforov, until mid-1979 the magazine's Bonn correspondent. He and a Tass correspondent were expelled in retaliation for the expulsion by the Soviet authorities of two West German TV correspondents.

Bonn Economic Collaboration Minister Rainer Offergeld has refuted the Soviet allegations. Level-headed examination of the facts, he said, showed that Third World countries rated West German aid a substantial contribution towards consolidation of their national independence.

Thirty per cent, he added, was channelled via multilateral organisations on whose policies the developing countries *themselves* exerted decisive influence.

The overwhelming majority of Bonn's bilateral aid was supplied without strings. Recipients were under no obligation to spend the money in the donor country.

dpa

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 14 September 1979)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

China's new reading tastes suggest changing view towards the West

In Shanghai, China's largest and liveliest city, one million copies of "Gulliver's Travels" in strip cartoon form sold like hot spring rolls.

Young people clamour at the newspaper kiosks for copies of the new bimonthly "Window on the World", which deals exclusively with foreign topics.

China is like a gigantic sponge that is as dry as tinder. Everything is soaked up. There is no limit to people's thirst for information.

It was the same in Germany 34 years ago when an era of cultural isolation drew to a close.

European commentators with maybe an axe to grind are by no means alone in conveying the impression that China is currently opening up to the West.

The impression is also conveyed by Chinese publications, universities and industrial corporations. But maybe it would be better to say that China is opening up the West for itself.

What is taken in and taken over is not accepted without first being given close scrutiny. A State in which the Party jealously rules alone is not going to submit passively.

China remains selective, accepting the West in part and in accordance with its own value categories, which are often older than communist precepts.

Yet a choice has been made. While countries influenced by the resurgence of Islamic culture are turning away from the West, China is turning away from introspection and taking a look at the West.

It is a historic spectacle we are witnessing, a change of role, a new and truly dramatic prospect.

Is it a case of Gulliver setting out on his travels? Will the giant, once he reaches the land of the dwarfs, imaginative and highly organised as they are, allow himself to be tied up and bound to stakes?

China has just been through the economic temptation to try out the wonders of technology as fast as possible and, as far as possible, all at once.

But it has now overcome the temptation, having had to make painful cuts in its programme.

Realisation of the danger had a shock effect in Peking. Scepticism of old where the West was concerned promptly recurred, and hands were raised to cover the eyes.

But self-correction, not xenophobia, was the result. China is to press ahead more slowly and set foot on terra incognita more gingerly.

Hoardings with the utopian year 2000 on them have disappeared.

Party chairman and Prime Minister Hua Guofeng, the man who had to scale down his own too ambition development plans, is visiting France, Germany and Britain in October and November.

Vice-President Mondale recently invited him to visit the United States. In January he is to welcome an election-campaigning President Carter to Peking.

He is also likely to visit Japan, according to Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, who himself would like to visit China as soon as possible.

The Soviet Union may remain on the periphery, but it is by no means missing from the cast. Before the end of September talks on the future of Sino-Soviet coexistence are to be held in Moscow.

Not since the stormy days of the Chinese Nationalist government in Chungking and Chou En-lai's activities in the mid-50s has the net of Chinese diplomacy been cast so wide.

Chou operated, in those days against the background of a pact with the Soviet Union, in the Third World and the neutral countries, which were the mainstay of Chinese interest.

Ties with Belgrade were established and Premier Chou was given a triumphant reception in Bandung, but Western Europe and the United States continued to be enemy territory.

This reminiscence may serve to convey some idea of the changes that are possible even in this day and age, with its asphalted roads, prearranged routes and alleged political necessities.

China has carried out a 180-degree turn in heavy seas by dint of the strong nerves that have always been part of the Peking leaders' make-up, be they radicals like Mao or moderates like Hua.

And since China is the only major power to master the art of motion in this virtually complete independence it almost seems to be what it once was: the Middle Kingdom.

It has shaken off the Soviet Union as an ally, engineered a rapprochem[ent] with the West, waged war in Vietn[am] and steered the country from t[he] groundswell of cultural revolution to [the] blue water of modernisation.

But in view of this temptation Ch[ina] also seeks to maintain the leas[t] modest outlook.

Returnees from weeks in Eur[ope] sense the atmosphere of modern[...] without which serious listening or rea[di]ness for reception are impossible.

They notice that the old culture is n[ot] dead after all. Torrential August rai[ns] for instance, collapsed the old observatory with its valuable astronomical i[n]struments.

It has been a part of Peking's c[ity] walls since the Ming Dynasty or ev[en] Kublai Khan's days, and repair work [was] started without delay.

It was yet another sign of the upp[...]ing historical awareness has underg[one] in reform era China.

Hua Guofeng will not be visiting E[u]rope as a commercial traveller. He is [not] like the Gulliver we know from lite[ra]ture either.

Hua stands for the Chinese reform[...] turn to the West. His person and [his] role also symbolise China's potential [for] change in world affairs.

It is not working from a position [of] strength just yet; all it has to offer i[s] sheer weight. Yet Soviet structural e[n]gineering is relativised and the alleged[ly] immobile set in motion.

Domestically China is anything but [a] bastion of freedom, but its policy of o[p]position to hegemonial strivings (fro[m] whichever quarter) is the freedom poli[cy] of this day and age.

Nations that are oppressed appreciate the fact. Free nations would do well to bear it in mind.

Herbert Kremp

(Die Welt, 12 September 1979)

Tito narrowly averts split at non-aligned summit

The sixth summit meeting of non-aligned nations deluged the world in a flood of declarations, action programmes, demands and slogans.

Yet delegations failed in Havana to change their surroundings either politically, ideologically or economically — for the time being, at any rate.

First there is the time factor, a problem the non-aligned movement, like any other political group or tendency, has to come to terms with.

Aspects under which the world is viewed are continually changing. What was rated progressive at the first non-aligned summit in 1961 is now old hat in many respects.

"The movement is no longer progressive enough on many issues. If anything it has grown opportunist." Or so says Fidel Castro.

In 1961, when the non-aligned movement was christened, the aim was to mediate between the blocs and end the cold war between East and West.

The establishment of a political buffer zone, a third force, seemed a logical step, but otherwise the world was in order as arranged at Yalta and Teheran.

Membership has since grown from 25 to nearly 100 and the non-aligned movement has adopted a different political and ideological viewpoint.

Decolonisation all over the world brought a large number of States not only freedom and independence; their views on everyday problems, international standing, power and ideological orientation have been honed to a fine cutting edge.

The widespread view that every revolution engulfs and devours its young is old hat but was borne out yet again at the Havana summit.

Fidel Castro felt the existing principles of non-alignment were no longer enough, just as the torchlight of Marxist-Leninist revolution in Angola, Cambodia, Vietnam and Afghanistan was not enough.

He wanted to see it blaze wherever the principles of "socialist solidarity" (the Brezhnev Doctrine of limited sovereignty) so require.

In other words, wherever the Soviet Union and the East bloc are prepared to extend their spheres of influence in the name of socialism.

Had the Cuban leader's draft declaration met with approval, the Havana summit would have all but rated the non-aligned world the East bloc's "natural ally."

What then, with time, would have happened was easy to forecast:

1: A split among the non-aligned nations.

2: A strengthening of Soviet influence on developments in the Third World.

3: An undermining of Yugoslav security policy.

4: A radicalisation of relations between some non-aligned countries and the West, especially between the Latin American nations and the United States.

The non-aligned world would have become Moscow's Trojan Horse in international affairs.

The increase in Soviet influence, aided and abetted by the non-aligned world, would have upset the balance of power between the superpowers America and Russia.

Fidel Castro sought to achieve this Soviet ambition, an aim the Kremlin has not yet abandoned by any means, by radicalisation towards "socialist solidarity."

President Tito set against it a principle that amounted to "thus far and no further." The non-aligned movement, he said, would never become "anyone's transmission belt or reserve."

His fellow-veterans of the non-aligned group President Nyerere of Tanzania and President Sekou Touré of Guinea sounded the same note.

They too were not prepared to sacrifice the principles of the non-aligned movement to the ambition of a single man.

Tito's authority and negotiating skill helped to avert for the time being the danger of a split or drift-off of the non-aligned nations into the "socialist solidarity" camp.

But this was no more than a partial success and no guarantee of continued success in future.

Victory and defeat were a hair's breadth apart, especially when it came to the survival of the Third World movement as an independent bloc.

Take the division on condemnation and expulsion of Egypt from the move[ment]. On the last night of the conference 25 Foreign Ministers were in favour to 23 against.

A decision was postponed until 1981 but founder-members of the movement such as India and Yugoslavia chose to abstain on this crucial vote.

Had Belgrade decided in Cairo's favour, Yugoslavia's sensitive ties with the other Arab countries would probably have been permanently upset.

Plain speaking by Yugoslavia in Egypt's favour might well have driven the Arab League countries straight into the arms of their "natural allies" who, in the name of "socialist solidarity," were keen to separate the wheat from the chaff at Havana.

Georg von Huebbenet

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 September 1979)

The German Tribune

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

New man to fill senior Government post

Gunter Huonker, the successor at the Chancellery to State Minister Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, cannot be assessed by the normal yardstick of left and right.

This is what the circle around the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, says. Others agree, and say that Herr Huonker is a descendent of the left wing of the Social Democrats, but that he has come of age.

Herr Wischnewski is to become deputy chairman of the SPD in place of the mayor of Bremen, Hans Koschnick, who has stepped down.

Gunter Huonker, 42, a jurist and economist, is to take Herr Wischnewski's place in about three months. The announcement, confirmed by Herr Wischnewski himself, has lifted Herr Huonker, an MP since 1972, from obscurity.

The appointment came as no surprise to Bundestag experts and SPD MPs because Herr Huonker proved himself during his years in the Bundestag Finance Committee where he was a hard worker without engaging in party polemics.

In the summer of 1978, SPD Floor Leader Herbert Wehner took Herr Huonker to a cabinet session conferring on the economic summit and tax reforms.

According to those present, he impressed both the chancellor and Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff by his nose for the politically feasible.

Helmut Schmidt made a mental note of the man's ability, and his present decision fortuitously also appears as a peace offering to the party's Eppler camp.

After studying law and economics, Herr Huonker worked for a year as a department head at the Freiburg *Landratsamt*.

In 1968, the minister who succeeded Herr Wischnewski at the Development Aid Ministry appointed Herr Huonker as head of his office.

Erhard Eppler, formerly a teacher of English, German and History, has known Herr Huonker since his schooldays.

Herr Huonker will now be faced with two main tasks on behalf of the chancellor. First: As Parliamentary State Secretary with the title of State Minister (reserved only for the Foreign Office and the Chancellery) he will have to act as a liaison to the SPD and FDP Parliamentary Parties, the Council of Elders, the SPD party headquarters and the trade unions.

Second: He will have to look after *Deutschlandpolitik* matters of which



Gunter Huonker
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Herr Wischnewski knew little more on taking office that does Herr Huonker.

The fact that Wischnewski also concerned himself with foreign affairs, primarily relations with the Arab countries, does not, however, mean that Huonker will have to do the same.

Foreign Minister Genscher will welcome the fact that he will now no longer have a "second foreign minister" to contend with, though he never had any reason to complain about Herr Wischnewski's work.

Unlike his teacher Herr Eppler, Herr Huonker has no tendency towards dogmatism. He is personable and rather reserved.

But he is also remembered for his stamina as Eppler's confidante during the final phase of the Grand Coalition between CDU/CSU and the SPD.

This time, Chancellor Schmidt did not appoint a man to cabinet rank in the Chancellery for his party-political merits. But his decision in favour of Herr Huonker seems to indicate that he had an ulterior motive, hoping that the new man will strengthen his position within the party.

The change from Wischnewski to Huonker will not result in a further reshuffle. Herr Schmidt wants to reserve this for after the 1980 election (if he is voted in again, that is).

But Herr Huonker's appointment indicates what changes Herr Schmidt would make in a reshuffle. It shows that the Chancellor appreciates performance and favours experts over wheeler-dealers.

Rudolf Strauch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 September 1979)

New Bundestag deputy speaker appointed

Former Defence Minister Georg Leber (SPD) is to become the new deputy speaker of the Bundestag, succeeding Hermann Schmitt-Vockenhausen, also SPD, who died at the beginning of August.

Herr Leber was nominated by the executive committee of the SPD Parliamentary Party on 6 September. The nomination is to be confirmed on 13 September by the SPD caucus as a whole.

Georg Leber, who was chairman of the Construction Workers' Union for many years, has been an MP since 1957.

Under the Grand Coalition of CDU/CSU and SPD he was appointed transport minister in 1966.

In 1977, he succeeded Chancellor Schmidt as Defence Minister, resigning this post last February in the wake of the Lutze spy affair and a number of electronic eavesdropping affairs involving the Military Intelligence Agency.

Georg Leber is considered part of the conservative wing of the SPD. As was Herr Schmitt-Vockenhausen, he is a member of the Central Committee of Catholics and thus provides a link between the Social Democrats and the Church.

dpa/rtr

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 September 1979)

Employees group finds consensus and keeps party fortunes aloft

The conference of the Work Group for Employee Questions (AfA) in Nuremberg's Meistersinger Hall was marked by consensus.

The 26-man committee had done its homework and the motions from the SPD sub-organisations were such as to ensure consensus.

This was fortuitous not only for the course of the conference but also for the AfA within the Social Democratic Party as a whole. After all, it once more succeeded in proving its *raison d'etre* at the conference.

When it was founded in 1973 — and subsequently there were those who held that the AfA was unnecessary because the SPD as a whole was a workers' party.

True. But the party's ties with individual firms are best promoted by members working in those companies, be it as machine operators or as trade unionists or as members of the Works Council.

In his Nuremberg address, Herbert Wehner termed all of them a "work group within the party."

The AfA can best represent workers' interests when it closes ranks as in Nuremberg.

The closing of the ranks was demonstrated by the re-election of AfA Chairman Helmut Rohde with 289 of 299 votes.

This assures him of the necessary support when he tackles social questions, including co-determination in practical day-to-day work.

How necessary this is has been demonstrated by management's attempt to water down even the existing and inadequate Co-determination Act of 1976.

Herr Rohde, who, even in his capacity as Education Minister, has always remained a social affairs politician, told the conference that he would devote himself entirely to the AfA and its aims.

Considering the AfA's list of demands directed at society as a whole, the party and its MPs, he will hardly have any choice. The issues involve structural policy, the labour market, social reforms, humanisation of work, educational holidays and, above all, more co-determination on all levels.

The chancellor welcomed discussion of these demands although he differs with the AfA on certain points. As a political practitioner, Chancellor Schmidt in addressing the conference depicted the limits of labour policy in this country, saying that some of the statements pointed far into the future.

To bring this future as close to the present as possible is one of the AfA tasks — especially since little work in that direction can be expected from Germany's conservatives, particularly under their present leadership.

Franz-Josef Strauss has already made it clear that he intends to reduce the scope of the state's social development possibilities.

But the AfA conference gave him a pragmatic answer for some of the sectors concerned when Herbert Ehrenberg presented the hypocritically demanded clarification on social security pensions policies. Herr Ehrenberg said that the Bonn Government would abide by the relevant legislation.

It was fitting that the Labour Minister should have addressed those ultimately concerned: the workers.

(Vorwärts, 13 September 1979)

Wischnewski to become deputy chairman of SPD

The guessing game is over. Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, State Minister in the Chancellery, is to become deputy chairman of the SPD. He is to replace Hans Koschnick at the SPD congress in Berlin.

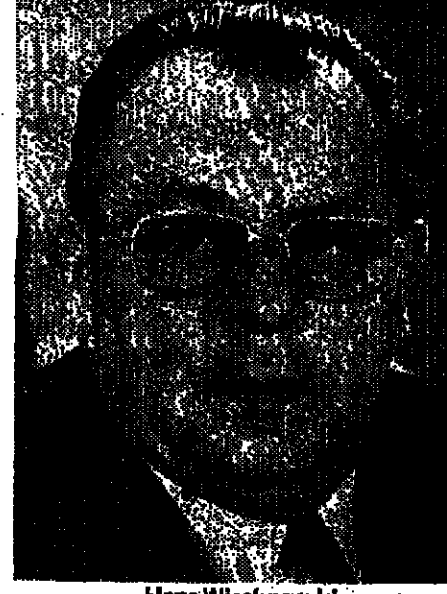
The nomination of Helmut Schmidt's confidant has put an end to speculation about other candidates. All that remains is the question as to the number of votes Herr Wischnewski will get in three months.

The party opted for a pragmatist in harmony with most of its members and for a man who is neither formally nor in any other way critical of Helmut Schmidt's style of leadership.

This can certainly not be said of Erhard Eppler who was also in the running and has meanwhile withdrawn.

Wischnewski might not have been exposed to so much pressure to stand for the office were it not for the elections next year and the realisation in the SPD that Franz Josef Strauss is a formidable opponent.

It was important for Helmut Schmidt to have a man in the party hierarchy who would guarantee optimal organisational work. The Chancellor, convinced



Hans Wischnewski
(Photo: Sven Simon)

of his effectiveness in any campaign, has thus made a decisive move.

Still, for internal party reasons, many SPD members oppose this solution. Perhaps accounts will be squared in Berlin.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 September 1979)

■ MODERN LIVING

Migrants fall into four categories, each with different needs

Migrants in West Germany fall into four categories. The interests of those in each category require vastly different policies.

The four are:

- Ethnic Germans from East European countries.
- Political refugees, mainly from the Middle East.
- Vietnam boat refugees.
- Foreign workers who don't fall into the other three categories.

About 58,000 ethnic Germans arrived last year and about 60,000 are expected this year.

Providing them with a home and trying to integrate them into our society is automatic.

The number of political refugees applying for political asylum is growing steadily. About 33,000 came last year and 40,000 are expected this year.

So far about 13,000 Vietnamese boat refugees are to be settled here, but this figure is likely to increase considerably.

As a basis for comparison, America has agreed to take 158,000 and France 50,000.

There are about four million foreign



workers, or *gastarbeiter*, in West Germany.

The integration of German repatriates from the East Bloc is probably easiest because of the same language and cultural background.

The foreign workers, on the other hand, remain a constant worry, increasingly marked by the fact that officialdom likes to deny the fact that, despite the repatriation of those whose contracts have run out, we are about to become an immigration country with all the legal and social consequences that go with it.

The problem of Vietnam refugees would appear easy to solve. But these boat people, whose survival chances were fifty-fifty, were placed in an extremely tenuous situation for political reasons. Providing them with a roof is the humane duty of the Western world, which bears some of the blame for their fate.

It will be difficult to find a realistic middle-of-the-road course between humanitarian duty and the actual possibility of integration. It is easy to accept tens of thousands in the first flush of compassion; but integrating them into our society will be very difficult, if for no other reason due to the language barrier and their entirely different cultural environment.

The public's attitude towards political asylum applicants we have had so far does not augur well. But this in no way changes our duty.

The Vietnam refugees are easy to characterise in terms of political asylum legislation. Article 16 of our Constitution guarantees such asylum to all who are politically persecuted in their home countries and whose existence in the broadest sense is threatened.

Foreigners who seek asylum for economic or social reasons, on the other hand, are not eligible.

The weakness of our asylum legislation lies in its administration, since every applicant must be reviewed individually.

In June 1978, the Bundestag passed a law to counter abuse. There can now be no appeal to a decision in cases of "obvious non-eligibility."

The new procedure has not been very successful. As a result, Bavaria would like to shorten it still further, deny all appeals, endow the border police with greater powers and facilitate deportation.

The whole issue is a tightrope act between erosion of the right to political asylum and excessively long and cumbersome administrative procedures.

More efficiency without eroding the right to asylum could be achieved by eliminating the two-tier character of the procedure. At present, the recognition procedure, should it fail, can be supplemented by a residence procedure to stop deportation.

Both political and legal

It would be a great advantage if the two procedures could be handled by the same authority.

The whole thing involves not only a legal but a political issue as well. It should, for instance, be taken for granted that there must be no difference between providing a haven for refugees from fascist countries such as Chile and Argentina and those from Vietnam.

Political blinkers in these matters can be dangerous — especially in a time of increasing party-political polarisation.

Ernst Müller-Meiningen jr.
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 August 1979)

Wartime babies seek their fathers through a Berlin bureau

Forty years after the beginning of World War II, a West Berlin authority is still unravelling paternity cases.

The authority has the somewhat unwieldy title of "German Office for the Information of the Next of Kin of Fallen Soldiers of the former German Wehrmacht."

The souvenirs of war, sons and daughters of former Wehrmacht soldiers, are still asking for information on the whereabouts of their fathers.

Walter Herrmann, head of the Office, says: "We settle about 300 of these inquiries every year. In order to be as discreet as possible, we have the fathers summoned to their local police station, their wives need not know about it, and the whole thing can easily be passed off as a traffic matter."

If the father does not want any information disclosed his wish is honoured and even his illegitimate child abroad does not get it.

The Bonn Interior Ministry has given strict instructions that the address need not be disclosed except with the consent of the person concerned. But in most cases the fathers consent, says Herr Herrmann.

The number of requests for paternity information is rising.

Herr Herrmann: "German soldiers and POWs were busy in many areas, judging by the requests that keep coming in from all parts of the world.

Personal dramas as information is withheld

"We are not at all surprised that so many children of former German soldiers have decided to write to us. They are adults now and have become interested in their origins. Financial considerations play almost no role at all since most of these people are very well off."

Since information is only given with consent the Office is confronted with many a personal drama.

For instance: a wealthy Swedish business executive is looking for his German father. The Berlin Office finds him but may not disclose his address.

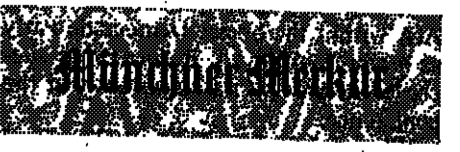
"The scene that unfolded in my office," says Herr Herrmann, "was heart rending. The illegitimate son not only wanted to know his father but was eager to support him financially on a grand scale. The father refused to meet his son because he wanted nothing more to do with a passing affair of his youth."

But there are also many happy endings. Only a few weeks ago, a Ludwigsburg housewife met again the man who saved her life during the war, former submarine captain Walter S., today a school teacher.

On 14 February 1945, when the housewife was being evacuated by ship and the ship hit a mine and sank, she was rescued by the U-boat captain. Having received his address from the Berlin Office she was now able to thank him.

The "archives of hope," as the Office is frequently called, contain more than 3,500 tons of files, equalling 10 long goods trains. The material ranges from lists of dog tags and POW lists all the way to reports on the fallen. The index alone contains more than 23 million cards, each denoting a destiny.

The Office handles more than 600,000 letters a year. And even mail



addressed to "The German Wehrmacht" or "The Supreme Command" reaches its destination.

The 493 staff members are confronted daily with the shadow of the past. Their work takes them to the former fronts, to hospitals and cemeteries.

By decree of the Allied Control Council, issued on 14 June 1946, the Office was instructed to continue the work of the Wehrmacht Information Centre for War Losses and Prisoners of War (WASt).

WASt's origins go back to the year 1914 when the Prussian War Ministry established a central information office which registered the losses of both sides.

Last year alone, the Berlin office solved the fates of 3,400 soldiers missing in action. In 197 of the cases, the missing were alive.

In more than 19,000 cases since 1950, the Office found that men believed dead were still around.

But this was not only cause for joy. In many instances the next-of-kin were faced with enormous financial hardships. Widows who had drawn dependents' pensions for decades had to repay much of the money.

The individual cases are tragic. One soldier's "widow" who drew DM2,000 a month, her husband having been a professional soldier, had to live on welfare from one day to the next when it was found that her husband was alive.

The work of this mammoth information centre has changed in the past few years.

While the emphasis used to be on men reported missing in action, today's emphasis is on certifying the term of service. Former Wehrmacht soldiers need these certificates to file for social security pensions.

"We receive about 15,000 such requests a month since very few former soldiers still have any documents to prove their time of service. In most instances personal papers were lost as a result of the war. But there are few cases where we cannot help," says Herr Herrmann.

Hundreds of thank you letters testify to the efficiency of the Office.

There are more than 100 million names on file and, by a quirk of fate, the Office happens to be housed in a former arms and ammunition factory.

Hope from the smallest clues

Every request is registered and provides additional information. Frequently the wedding ring of a fallen soldier, found during excavation work, can be turned over to the widow. This is a small matter, but important to those concerned.

Only few people know these archives of hope, and yet there is every likelihood that its work will go on undiminished for many years to come.

Peter Brehm
(Münchner Merkur, 3 September 1979)

■ WORLD WAR II

The infamous day that changed the lives of everyone

The Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, says why 1 September, 1939, must not be forgotten

Forty years ago Hitler launched the Second World War in Germany's name. It lasted nearly six years and cost 55 million lives.

Europe has been at peace for 34 years now. Is it still worth recalling the day war was declared in summer 1939? It is not just worthwhile; it is a necessity.

The first of September 1939 is a date that has influenced all our lives, whether we realise it or not.

There has not been a date or event this century to rival it in changing the political situation in Germany, Europe and the world so radically, so brutally and with such lasting consequences.

There is no other event from which we have as much to learn.

World War II began with a German invasion of Poland that marked the beginning of the most dreadful epoch in the long history of suffering by the Polish people.

Hitler's war aims went far beyond anything previously conceivable by way of imperialist policy. He wanted to carve out *Lebensraum* in the East.

The people who lived there were either to be exterminated or made slaves of German masters. In Poland, and later in the Soviet Union, Hitler put his plans into practice.

Millions of people were killed. Towns and villages were razed to the ground. Polish territory was to be used for the greatest crime of all: the extermination of European Jews.

We were reminded of this a few weeks ago when Pope John Paul II visited his native country and said in Auschwitz he had come not to accuse but to remind people.

We Germans are grateful for the understanding he showed in his Auschwitz address and grateful for the neighbourly attitude taken by the present Polish Government.

From the start World War II was not merely a war waged against Poland. It was also war on Poland's Western allies, war on Europe.

Many neutral countries in Europe were unscrupulously attacked. Only a handful were spared German bombardment and occupation.

For a very long time, all too long, the countries of Europe looked on as the German Reich expanded at its neighbours' expense and found fine words to excuse their own behaviour, which for the most part consisted of inactivity.

The pact by which Hitler and Stalin agreed to share out Poland proved a fearfully expensive bargain for the peoples of the Soviet Union and other countries in Eastern Europe.

Hitler's invasion of Russia eventually induced East and West to join forces in an anti-Hitler coalition. They were joined by the United States and, eventually, almost the entire world.

In the end every inch of German soil was in enemy hands. Countless millions of survivors in Europe — Jews, Poles and Germans — were deprived of their homes.

This war, launched with the aim of establishing German supremacy in Europe, was also a war on the major traditions of European history.

It was a war on the European spirit of humanity, a war on Europe's cultural diversity, on freedom and the liberal out-



Helmut Schmidt
(Photo: Sven Simon)

look, on tolerance and respect for others holding views different from one's own.

It was a war on the only working principle on which lasting peace in Europe can be based, the principle of a balance of political power among the major European countries.

It put paid to the beginnings of political reconciliation made in the twenties by former opponents of World War I.

I should like to recall Briand and Stresemann, whose political ideas were aimed at laying the groundwork for lasting peace in Europe by means of reconciliation between France and Germany.

After World War I the outbreak of which Germany was certainly not solely to blame, European reconciliation would have been substantially easier than it was after World War II.

The war on Europe went on to become a world war by virtue of the German invasion of Russia and the declaration of war on the United States. This war, Hitler's war, ended up by being a war on Germany.

Germany's location in Central Europe did not merely have a geographical meaning; it also had a cultural significance.

The Germans' way of life, their ideas, their philosphy, their literature and their art were never exclusively orientated to the West either politically or artistically.

Germany always boasted a mixture of West and East, North and South European elements that gave rise to tension, at times fertile, at times explosive.

So it would not just have been Germany's political duty as a Central European power to promote a policy of balance and equilibrium between East and West.

Germany ought also to have been thinking in terms of accommodating the various sources and currents of European culture and civilisation and fostering encounter, debate and cross-fertilisation.

Hitler scorned this task. His war was a war on Germany's historic role in Europe. In his megalomania he dismissed the opportunity of ties with both East and West, albeit in unequal measure and in different ways.

His war made both sides implacable enemies of Germany.

Germany's defeat ended for us and for the foreseeable future this opportunity of a central stance and an intermediary role.

The division of Germany into two States and the division of its old political, economic and artistic capital, Berlin, have lent bitter expression to this fact.

But at the end of the war Germany was not alone in being down and out. Large areas of Europe were destroyed and laid waste. This destruction must not be understood solely in political or material terms; it also has a human and an intellectual dimension.

When we look back today we are bound to feel admiration and respect for the politicians who in the wasteland and the chaos of the immediate post-war years took the first steps in the direction of building a new Europe and keeping the European peace.

US names that spring to mind in this connection are those of President Truman, Secretary of State Byrnes and General George C. Marshall.

Western European politicians who fostered consciousness of a common European heritage again despite everything that had happened also deserve admiration and respect.

Winston Churchil must be mentioned first of all, then France's Robert Schuman, Jean Monnet and, later, General de Gaulle.

They all paved the way for the Federal Republic of Germany to join the community of democratic states.

They enabled us to re-establish our self-esteem and good-neighbourly relations, friendship even, with erstwhile enemies and victors. We have every reason for gratitude.

The generation of European politicians that followed these statesmen, a generation to which I belong, also bears the imprint of the destruction wrought in World War II.

We know we must do all in our power to ensure that the horrors of the past cannot be repeated.

Three major political tasks follow from this obligation: duty to keep the peace, duty to maintain good neighbourliness (which means coming to terms with all neighbours) and the duty of fostering political, economic and cultural cooperation in Europe.

The overwhelming majority of Germans alive today were not even born while Hitler was alive, or still children. They are obviously not to blame for Hitler's crimes.

But Germans everywhere, in the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, share responsibility for ensuring that these three tasks are fulfilled.

They must make sure there can never be a repetition of the horrors of World War II. This realisation is the point of recalling 1 September 1939.

To perform these tasks we must retain a *sure judgment* of the *interests* and needs of others. We need the virtue of solidarity with others. We need the virtues of moderation and self-restraint.

We cannot afford to be unpredictable. We must be reliable. The Federal Republic has so far done this obligation justice.

After the reconciliation with France that laid the groundwork for close cooperation in Western Europe we went on to lay the groundwork for a political settlement with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe by means of a series of treaties with Eastern Europe.

Detente must continue

This is the basis on which we continue to build. What matters is to "build bridges that span international political opposites," as the Protestant Church in Germany recently so rightly put it.

So the policy of detente must be continued and extended. It calls for special efforts in the context of striking a balance between defence and arms control.

Our country is taking an active part in this process, making contributions that are highly respected. It must continue to do so.

We Germans must work for peace and do so on the basis of membership of Nato and the EEC, treaties with East and West and our own historic experience.

Europe is still divided. It will take great efforts in both East and West to consolidate co-operation, equilibrium and friendship all over Europe. We have a vital part to play and it must be a reliable, consistent contribution. It is certainly a must if there is to be peace.

(Bergedorfer Zeitung, 31 August 1979)

A time for the Chancellor to be more forthright

In a televised talk with journalists and West Berliners screened on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the outbreak of war Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt voiced a view on World War II and its aftermath that is seldom heard from German politicians.

The swift concentration of every available ounce of effort on solving economic difficulties arising from the collapse of the Third Reich led to people abandoning too early the intellectual attempt to come to terms with the past, he said.

A comment of this kind would not come as much of a surprise coming from an uncommitted intellectual, but it is unusual for a leader of a party that shared responsibility and claims its share of the kudos for post-war economic recovery.

Herr Schmidt obviously was not saying that the Germans would have done better to go without food longer in the interest of a more searching discussion of what had happened (although this might well have been the consequence).

But he may well feel uneasy about the current lack of self-critical reflection and the historical vacuum in which many people live, without any inner link with the past and thus inhibited in heading on the necessary conclusions.

How deeply rooted is people's democratic consciousness? Who knows? Helmut Schmidt really ought to be more to the point about what he personally fears.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 September 1979)

■ THE ECONOMY

Change in Washington policy helps European Monetary System

Pessimists who predicted an end to the European Monetary System have been proved wrong, and attitudes to the system are now much less abrasive than they were.

It is true that there has been speculation that the deutschemark might be revalued upwards.

This has lead to foreign investors buying more German securities and to livelier foreign exchange transaction. But the amounts involved were not great.

However, few experts now think that there will be a deutschemark adjustment. Neither do they think that there will be a major readjustment of the parities of the major currencies.

What remains is the technical review which was due to take place around this time anyway. This will involve the composition of the currency basket and the function of various indicators.

Major changes unlikely

The finance ministers concerned are unlikely to make any major changes when reviewing the reports of the specialist committes.

This balanced position at the beginning of autumn was not exactly predictable. In fact, sceptics were initially not quite sure that the EMS, effective since 13 March, would not succumb to the first onslaught.

The experience with the Snake, which Britain left after only a few months and France had to leave twice during a somewhat longer period, still lingered.

And, indeed, the first difficulties with the Belgian franc and the Danish kroner arose shortly after the EMS got off the ground. At that time, the Bundesbank acted as an irritant because it sold dollars without consulting the other members.

This was done to put the brakes on the rapidly appreciating deutschemark which could have jeopardised Germany's monetary stability.

The central banks in Brussels and Copenhagen had to intervene heavily because German dollar sales affected the exchange rates within the EMS.

The first demands for a deutschemark revaluation were heard in the early summer. But all parties concerned realised that the weakness of the Belgian franc and the Danish kroner was primarily due to the economic situation in those countries, and both introduced measures in support of their currencies.

Then came the new oil price increases which surprisingly had little effect on the foreign exchange markets. Since the end of July all has been tranquil in the EMS.

There can be no doubt that the relative peace that now prevails in the EMS is essentially due to a more stable dollar and to a change in Washington's monetary policy. The United States is no longer watching idly as the dollar performs its antics.

As a result, prognostications as to the future of the EMS always involve the relation to the dollar. The parity of EMS currencies against each other is still being fixed via their dollar exchange rates, and experts are aware that the dollar-deutschemark parity has a decisive



function, determining the fate of the EMS.

Prospects are still uncertain. All that can be said is that the EMS will need a more co-ordinated attitude towards the dollar.

The dollar problem is also the main reason for Britain's restraint. Though members who have even provided reserves for the Fund, the Britons are still hesitant when it comes to participating in the intervention mechanism.

Britain's foreign trade is less Europe oriented and thus depends more on the dollar exchange rate.

As indicated in a report by a special House of Lords committee, London sees the crucial issue in the relationship between EMS and dollar. Without a clarification of this issue, even the pro-European Thatcher government will think twice before becoming a full-fledged EMS member.

America's assessment of the EMS has remained ambivalent. Initially, the whole project was seen (and not quite wrongly) as an attempt to get away from the dollar.

This was followed by the suspicion that the EMS was directed against the dollar; but finally the Americans came to realise that all Europe wanted was to protect itself from the inflationary consequences of America's policy.

The "Wall Street Journal" wrote at the beginning of August that the Federal Republic of Germany had taken over the monetary lead in Western Europe by means of the EMS, replacing America in this function. In truth, however, this role has been foisted on the Germans.

At a meeting of monetary experts in Alpbach, Austria, at the end of August, dealing with the question whether the EMS was a new monetary order or European monetary protectionism, the America delegate spoke of the necessity of intensified co-operation in the IMF, barely mentioning the EMS.

He held that the solution of the problem lay in a co-ordinated management of the economy for which the nations concerned would have to relinquish part of their sovereignty. This is exactly what the Americans are not prepared to do in matters of monetary policy.

Meanwhile, the possibilities and limitations of the EMS have become more clearly discernible. For the European Community, much of whose trade takes place between the members, stable exchange rates are obviously beneficial and promote business.

The EMS also helps to cement the Community, forcing the members to coordinate their economic policies.

Those who once more warn of the dangers of fixed exchange rates which delay or prevent necessary structural adjustments should remember that the EMS is flexible.

Adjustments are part of the system and will have to be made sooner or later due to the growing difference in the inflation rates of the member nations.

Meanwhile, most people have come to realise that it is above all the differences in the balances of payments that necessitates adjustments. It has become obvious now that exchange rate adjustments alone cannot solve balance of payments problems unless supported by domestic measures.

Dollar important reserve currency

The dollar has remained the most important reserve currency, as demonstrated by the first six months of the EMS. No-one speaks of the Ecu and no-one seems willing to introduce a more encompassing new system along the lines of the EMS.

Though the monetary landscape of the Western world has changed, the time is not yet ripe for a world monetary system.

H. Stadlmann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 September 1979)

Inflation of 5 per cent no reason for panic

Most experts mention a five before the decimal point when forecasting inflation rates for the immediate future. They have now been joined by Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff.

But it would be wrong to take the clouds on the horizon as indicating a storm.

Together with Switzerland and Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany is still one of the countries that has managed to control inflation.

Without the oil price increases, we would be far below 5 per cent.

Besides, statistics can be used to prove anything and they should be taken with a pinch of salt.

For one thing, we are comparing present inflation rates with last year's relatively low rate and, for another, the basket of goods on which the calculations are based is obsolete. This is to be changed shortly.

The fact that figures do not always reflect realities is substantiated by month-to-month inflation rates which have been diminishing lately.

Moreover 5 per cent is no reason to panic. Both management and trade unions should therefore tread cautiously in the next round of wage negotiations and take the facts into account.

Franz-Josef Nicola

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 September 1979)

Reports paint international future of gloom, but experts not always right

The world economy will gradually decline. There will be brief periods of recovery, but these will be followed by successively longer and steeper dives.

This is one of the more gloomy findings of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) in its annual report.

Its forecast follows a study relased by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which says that the world will be plagued by the energy problem and connected crises for another two generations, "until 2025."

Two further reports likely to be equally gloomy are due to be issued in a few weeks. They are from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

The Gatt report, excerpts only of which have so far been released, says slightly more optimistically that the volume of world trade rose again last year, by 6 per cent, compared with a rise of 4 per cent the year before.

But it warns that the are indications that this growth is at least partly due to the shift of demand from home to foreign markets.

In any event, Gatt says that worldwide production rose by a smaller



amount in 1978 than in 1977, 4 per cent compared with 4.5 per cent.

But do the international pundits really believe in their own prognostications do they have ulterior motives? From their vantage point, which is not exactly practice-oriented, pessimism seems understandable.

Theoretically, any number of chain reactions triggered by a minor event is perfectly possible, ranging from oil crisis to inflation, from inflation to monetary crisis, from monetary crisis to protectionism and from there to social and political conflicts.

In view of all these potential spectres it seems almost a miracle that the economy is still alive and kicking. And alive it is despite the gloom perpetuated from annual report to annual report.

But international officialdom usually wants to improve the world, and it is their job to point the dangers so that they can be warded off.

International experts, however, depend on governments and provide them with alibi reports from time to time.

They certify that things could not have been handled better considering the unfavourable circumstances.

In this mesh of faith, belief and facts it is anything but easy to determine which is which. International reports should therefore be noted without forgetting independent thought.

Erich Reyhl

(Handelsblatt, 11 September 1979)

■ INDUSTRY

Big bank criticised for its role in bankrupt building company

One of West Germany's biggest banks has been heavily criticised for its involvement with the collapse of a massive construction company.

The criticism, by the receiver for Beton- und Monierbau AG, comes as the Münster Land Court makes up its mind whether to prosecute Ludwig Poullain, former boss of the bank, the Westdeutsche Landesbank, over allegations involving DM1m in an unrelated situation.

The bankruptcy of the company, involving debts of more than one billion deutschemarks, was one of the most spectacular in German post-war history.

What the receiver had to say at the first meeting of creditors boiled down to stiff charges against West-LB.

It was therefore only natural that the West-LB representative on the board of Beton- und Monierbau wasted no time rebutting the charges. But what he said was not exactly convincing.

Whenever a major company collapses, the ire of the creditors is usually directed against the banks involved. Mostly they stand accused of having dropped their client too early because a few more million and a bit of patience could have seen him out of his straits.

In this case, however, the position is reversed, and West-LB stands accused of having been too slow in recognising that its clients was on the verge of bankruptcy. Instead, it pumped more and more money into the ailing business and supported it with guarantees.

Bonn Government gets fingers burnt

Among those who have been hit by the collapse is the Bonn Government, which took on a guarantee for DM50 million at the beginning of July 1978 without briefing the Budgetary Committee. North Rhine-Westphalia, which had earlier guaranteed DM70 million, is another victim.

There are also all the other creditors who, pinning their faith on the guarantees and on the strength of the West-LB, extended more and more credits.

And, finally, there are the small shareholders who, as late as the autumn of 1978 and trusting in a prospectus signed by West-LB, bought new shares. They all consider themselves as having been taken for a ride and are accusing the bank of deliberate misrepresentation.

But then, it is probably one of the most difficult problems for a bank to decide whether it should extend further credits to a customer in difficulties, to decide whether the business is essentially healthy and likely to get back on its feet, given the necessary credits.

The accusations voiced after the bankruptcy (even if only some of them are justified) give rise to considerable doubt as to whether the West-LB did justice to its function as the most important house bank and major stockholder (with an equity of more than 10 per cent) of the defunct company.

Neither Bonn nor the state of North Rhine-Westphalia nor the stockholders were fold in good time about the company's position.

The balance sheet as of 31 December 1977, on which the guarantees and the capital increase in 1978 were based, had the auditors' seal of approval. But nobody knew that the same auditors made it unmistakably clear to the board that there was no guarantee that the company would be able to continue in business. And no expert advice was obtained before the guarantees were issued as to whether or not the future of the company would be ensured if it had the necessary financial assistance.

The West-LB acted as its own expert and the decision making bodies were satisfied to act on their worlds. Today, they feel that they were fooled.

But this is not all. If the news magazine *Der Spiegel* was right with its contention in early May 1979 that the 1977 balance sheet contained footnotes that were later cut off on instructions from the chairman, there would be a criminal aspect to the affair.

The *Spiegel* report also said that the balance sheet was deliberately cooked inasmuch as the company sold some of its machinery to one of its foreign subsidiaries at considerable paper profit.

The receiver mentioned yet another, even more important, irregularity at the creditors' meeting. He said that the company issued fictitious invoices for DM9.3 million at the end of 1976 and that this was done in collusion with sub-contractors.

The West-LB representative on the board of Beton- und Monierbau AG showed great surprise about the alleged balance sheet manipulation and the fictitious invoices. But he pointed to the fact that, so far as his own actions were concerned, company law demanded discretion — even vis-a-vis his own bank. He did express his complete astonishment, saying that the bank had always acted commensurately to the situation.

But this argument smacks more of a subterfuge than of self-assurance.

Whatever the legalities, no-one in his right mind will believe that the bank representative in his function as board member of another company would do something that would benefit the company while harming his bank.

The way things stand, this argument, if put forward in court, will fail to convince the judges that the bank was unaware of the true position.

Several court cases are meanwhile in progress. The Düsseldorf finance minister has filed criminal charges, claiming that he was deliberately deceived as to the true position of the company, and the budgetary experts of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party intend to file similar charges.

Due to the West-LB's liability for the prospectus on the capital increase and its optimistic description of the company's situation, a small shareholder has filed suit for damages. And, finally, the receiver wants to sue the bank in an effort to force it to turn over the collateral it holds for credits to Beton- und Monierbau. He argues that the bank obtained this collateral although it knew or should have known that the credits would not suffice to put the company back on its feet.

Keeping the courts busy

The affair will thus keep several criminal and civil courts busy for some time to come.

The West-LB says it is viewing the whole thing with equanimity. But instead of the tranquility it so longs for after the Poullain affair it is likely to make headlines for quite a while.

Max Kruk

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 September 1979)

All clear for grocery chain's supermarket takeover

The Federal Cartel Office has decided not to stop the Edeka grocery chain from taking over the supermarkets in the Horton chain of department stores.

A Cartel Office spokesman said that though monopolisation in food retailing has progressed there is no reason to worry about future market structures in this sector.

He also said that his office did not find that this merger would lead to market domination, a finding required to stop the merger.

Edeka alone, he said, does not dominate the market on a nation-wide scale at present.



The Berlin watchdogs of competition had originally feared that Edeka's position on the market (it has an annual turnover of DM17bn) would be further strengthened by the merger with Horton and the advance into city centres.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 8 September 1979)

Wraps remain round one item of equipment at show

Visitors to the West Berlin Telecommunications Show were denied a glimpse of the piece de resistance of the chemical giant BASF: the LVR video-recorder that not only enables its owner to record TV programmes but also his own films taken with a special camera.

Controls at the entrance to the small studio were stiff, permitting entry only to dealers and representatives of the press.

BASF's marketing people did not want to publicly display a product which, though announced years ago, will not be available before mid-1980. Future buyers are not to be made insecure by dealers who view this new technology with some scepticism.

BASF's latest product has met with plenty of reservations, primarily due to the many other systems on the market and the competition's barrage.

There are doubts as to the possibility of recording the necessary 3.5 million data per second called for in longitudinal video recording if a good picture quality is to be achieved.

Representatives of the company, on the other hand, say that they have beaten the problems. But Sony's German representative denies this. For him, the world has only three manufacturers capable of developing good recorders: Sony (Betamax System), Matsushita (VHS System) and Philips (VCR and, in co-operation with Grundig, Video 2000). The BASF system goes unmentioned.

But the company's head of recording technology, Helmut Thurm, sees it differently. He says: "The competition's sets have reached the end of the development line because their complicated technology precludes miniaturisation."

Due to simplicity of construction, the BASF sets can be made even smaller. This brings the possibility of making home television films closer. An LVR videocamera is said to be in the offing for the late 80s. The camera will be as easy to handle as a super-8. As a result, manufacturers of such sets will meet with stiff competition. Video films require no development and are ready to be shown immediately after being taken.

It is these prospects that have prompted BASF to try its hand on the new market.

Although they have already produced DM500m worth of radios, hifi sets and recorders, the necessary technology was bought from the Japanese.

America's Bell & Howell Company holds a licence and so does Eumig. The really big deal will not only be in licences but also in the sale of tapes. Sony figures that every video set will account for the purchase of 20 tapes in the first year.

To start with, BASF wants to manufacture 100,000 video-recorders a year, though only in the USA, where the technology was developed with the help of former Nasa engineers.

A BASF spokesman admits that the company opted for the United States because of low wages and high market risks. There it is easier to shut down a factory if a product isn't selling.

Peter Ziller

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 September 1979)

■ UTILITIES

Plans for giant superfreighter port in Hamburg 'shelved'

Plans to build a massive new Hamburg port in the Elbe estuary appear to have been shelved.

Hamburg's aim was to join forces with Bonn and other State governments in building berths for superfreighters and tankers of up to 700,000 gross registered tons in the mudflats 10 miles out from Cuxhaven.

But recent reactions from Hamburg city councillors indicates that the project stands little chance of going ahead in the near future at least.

Ulrich Hartmann, leader of the Social Democrat majority on the council, said that the "demand for a deep-water facility ... cannot be rated positive."

Hamburg's mayor, Social Democrat Hans-Ulrich Klose, was all in favour of the project a few years ago. A few weeks ago, he sounded much more cautious when he said: "Planning procedures may be inaugurated."

Senate to make decision

Helmuth Kern, a former Senator for Economic Affairs (and Economic Affairs in Hamburg mean, as they always have, first and foremost the port) is as keen as mustard on going ahead with planning procedures.

But the decision is no longer his. It is up to the current Economic Affairs Senator Jürgen Steinert to recommend action.

The Senate as a whole will make the final decision.

No-one knows just which way they will decide, but the likelihood is they will favour a middle-of-the-road approach and decide against planning procedures for the time being. But they are not likely to take the irrevocable decision of scrapping the entire deep-water port project once and for all.

Hamburg basically wants a new port because the Elbe has a strictly limited draught. At present it is a little over 13m(about 43ft) which is just not enough for fully laden 200,000-ton bulk carriers of supertankers.

The planned port was to have been joined by an industrial platform.

So wildlife will not be disturbed for the time being on Scharhörn, a 17-hectare ($42^1/_2$-acre) sand dune where seagulls, terns, oystercatchers and various other birds unconcernedly breed.

And life will go on as usual on Neuwerk, a 290hectare (1.13-square-mile) isler with its 14th-century tower hallmark and the handful of farmers, holidaymakers and day-trippers who come across the flats at low tide by horse and cart.

Now and then they will be joined by scientists, members of the research unit that has probed the islet for years and is one of the last remaining testimonies to Hamburg's ambitious plans.

In 1962 Hamburg exchanged land near Cuxhaven for Scharhörn and Neuwerk, which at that time were owned by Lower Saxony, the city's local government neighbour to the south.

The handover ceremony was observed in great style, and over the years Hamburg's backroom boys drafted increasingly ambitious plans for a deep-water port and adjacent industrial estate.



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The new island, planners said, would be an ideal location for a major power station of whatever kind. The advantages of on-the-spot electric power and bulk cargo berthing were equally obvious.

They would be substantial for industries based on petroleum, coal gasification, direct reduction of iron ore and the like.

Desalination plant was another obvious idea, and the port would be a convenient harbour facility for dangerous cargoes, such as liquid natural gas or chemicals.

Scharhörn and Neuwerk would be served by a shipping lane with a draught of 20m, or 65ft 4in, which is more than the estuaries of the Ems, the Jade or the Weser, Germany's other North Sea rivers, have to offer.

This conclusion was also reached in 1972 by a Deep-Water Ports Commission on which not only Bonn and the coastal states (Hamburg, Bremen, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein) but also commercial and industrial organisations were represented.

The project would almost certainly mean the end of the North Sea mudflats in their present form, an unspoilt nature reserve where many rare species breed, as ecologists and nature-lovers were quick to note.

Biologist Otto Rohwedder said the scheme was irresponsible. Hamburg scientists sounded a warning note. Cuxhaven naturelovers collected 24,000 signatures in a bid to persuade Hamburg to abandon the idea.

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Hamburg replied to critics in 1976 with a report by a Scientific Committee on Overall Ecological Issues that claimed to have examined the effect of a deep-water port in strict impartiality.

Its conclusions were, briefly, that the proposed deep-water port and industrial estate would be a serious inroad in what still a largely unspoilt nature reserve.

But the damage could be kept to a minimum if certain structural and technological conditions were met. The report came in for criticism.

Hamburg's economic planners must have been surprised to learn that Herr Hartmann, neither an SPD left-winger nor an ecologist, gave pride of place to ecological considerations in his recommendation that the project be abandoned.

Industrialisation, he argued, might not destroy the mudflats but it would certainly have a serious effect on the coastal environment.

"Any move Hamburg might undertake in this direction would nullify the credibility of the city's Social Democrats to give greater priority to environmental protection."

Besides, he feels the project is not an economic necessity. Imports of coal, ores, aluminium and chemicals are not expected to increase sufficiently in the near future to make the deep-wa[ter port] and industrial estate profitable.

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So the planners will just have ... and see. "Scharhörn/Neuwerk is ... proposal," one leading civil ser[vant as]sociated with the project said so[me time] ago. "But we can't do it by oursel[ves] ... aren't going to push the idea at a[ll]."

Lower Saxony plans to concen[trate on] its own ports for the time being.

Karsten ...

(Der Tagesspiegel, 9 Septembe[r ...])

Telephoning wi[ll] be cheaper

Despite computers and ... bodies even predictable d... ments sometimes turn out to be ... dictable trends. Who, for instance, ... have thought a few years ago that ... Germans would become a na[tion of] telephone subscribers?

The Bundespost's telecommuni[cations] division is expanding the network ... as it can, yet lines are still overload[ed at] peak periods and profits are hands[ome].

Despite losses in other sectors, ... a special payment of DM1.5bn to ... and despite rate reductions in the ... the Bundespost still expects to ... enough profit next year to be able ... ford further cuts totalling DM2.1bn.

Posts and Telecommunications M[in]ister Kurt Gscheidle can be truly p[roud] of this achievement.

But it is not raining pennies f[rom] heaven. Herr Gscheidle had little cho[ice] ... otherwise the Finance Minister wo[uld] have regularly raided the till, and t[ele]phone bills would merely have be[en a] form of indirect taxation.

Basically, all the cuts mean is t[hat] past increases were too high. S... next year the subscriber will merely ... discounted the extra he currently has ... choice but to pay to what is a gov[ern]ment monopoly.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 September ...)

Cash for home improvements

Building societies expect to be granting more home loans for modernisation and renovation and far fewer mortgages for new homes in the 80s.

Joachim Degner, business manager of the Building Societies Association, says efforts to maintain the value of property may be expected to rank alongside the aim of wealth creation via property ownership.

But the association does not approve of politically motivated proposals for mortgages to be granted to tenants to finance modernisation of property by the landlord.

Modernisation and renovation of existing property is expected to increase in importance in view of bids to save energy.

Much of the housing stock is old and does not measure up to today's standards. There is a growing need for cash to finance improvement.

Building societies see promising opportunities of bankrolling government-backed improvement schemes at concessional rates.

They are currently planning an energysaving campaign to be launched in great style and run jointly with the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry.

The association represents private-sector building societies only. They have a roughly two-thirds share of the market. Recent trading results confirm the trend away from loans towards new housing and into other forms of housing investment.

In the first half of 1979 new housing accounted for DM8.8bn of business, an increase of 16.9 per cent on the corresponding period last year.

Mortgages granted for other purposes totalled DM6.5bn, a 29.6.-per-cent increase.

These other purposes included the purchase of building land and existing housing, renovation, modernisation, extension and conversion.

The combined total of mortgages issued in the first six months of this year, DM15.3bn or 21.9 per cent up on the first half of 1978, reflected a building boom.

New deposits were up 11.4 per cent to DM13.6bn, while 800,000 new long-term savings plans with a combined target total of nearly DM30bn were concluded.

Last year private building societies arranged 1.9m new savings plans with a combined target total of DM65.1bn. New deposits totalled DM28.3bn, w[ith]drawals and combined outpaym[ents] DM26.2bn.

Their showing has been much b[etter] so far this year. Herr Degner attrib[utes] this to higher interest rates, which h[ave] made building societies a more attrac[tive] investment.

Long-term savings planners in Wes[t] Germany qualify for flat-rate intere[st] charges (usually $4^1/_2$ per cent) on bu[ild]ing loans when their plans mature.

This, Herr Degner says, has been l[ar]gely responsible for offsetting fluct[ua]tion in the construction industry in t[he] past. Private-sector housing in partic[ular] has had a steadying effect on the mar[k]et.

Societies are confident when it co[mes] to future prospects, especially now ... reckon interest rates on capital ... will generally be higher than in the ...

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(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 Septemb[er ...])

■ ENERGY

Atom-power deal with Argentina denied

Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff, just back from a three-week tour of Latin America, dismissed as nuclear science fiction reports that he had signed an atom pact with the Argentinian government.

He was also rumoured to have negotiated the sale of four more nuclear power stations to Argentina, and the reports had created a stir, especially as an immediate denial was not issued.

This was impossible at the time because Herr Lambsdorff was still in midair on an 18-hour return flight, but the delay provided a welcome opportunity for speculation.

The nuclear power industry hoped there would turn out to be some truth in the rumours, whereas the Young Socialists were, as might be expected, highly critical.

For the industry any such agreement would have put paid to years of anxiety. For some time manufacturers such as Kraftwerk Union (KWU) have been worried that as orders declined they might have to dismiss specialised staff and mothball capacity.

The erstwhile nuclear power boom is no longer even a boomlet. Domestic power utilities have paused for thought, and new nuclear power stations are no longer even being commissioned, let alone planning permission granted.

Decisions are certainly being delayed until a final ruling has been made on interim storage of spent nuclear fuel rods.

Until a few months ago export business was brisk, however. Then came the turmoil in Iran. Work on two nuclear power stations there was halted, and KWU and the Iranian authorities are now at loggerheads over indemnification.

Yet a year ago the West German nuclear power industry had justified hopes of playing a leading role in Iran's development plans.

But three had been substantial difficulties in the export trade for some time. Brazil, for instance, still intends to meet its commitments, but has had to stagger them over a longer period of time.

Brazil has run up heavy foreign debts and the government says priority must be given to the balance of payments for the next few years.

West German manufacturers view the US attitude with particular misgivings, especially the continual American attempts to persuade Bonn to impose an embargo on export permits for nuclear power stations deals.

Competition is tough enough in any case, especially from Swiss and Canadian manufactuers (and, of course, the US nuclear industry).

West German bids by no means enjoy the reputation of being the lowest, as the bidding for Atucha II in Argentina has shown. A Canadian competitor submitted the less expensive bid.

But Herr Lambsdorff's Argentinian hosts still seemed inclined to award the contract to KWU, the Frankfurt company.

Against this background fresh importance attaches to party-political decisions on the future role of nuclear power, especially the tenor of opinion at the forthcoming Social Democratic party conference in West Berlin this December.

SPD supporters of nuclear power, first and foremost Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, say it is most important the industry is not shelved altogether.

In a few years' time, they argue, the mothballing of production facilities and shortage of qualified staff could prove a grave disadvantage.

They could indeed if we are obliged by the lack of other sources of energy to go ahead and develop nuclear power after all.

Peter J. Velte

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 September 1979)

Reactor to be demolished

Niederaichbach, Bavaria, is the first nuclear power station in the Federal Republic of Germany to be scheduled for demolition.

Karlsruhe nuclear research centre has commissioned demolition experts from Würzburg and Hanau to raze the reactor, which is near Landshut on the Isar.

It will take an estimated six years and cost about DM80m but demolition work has yet to begin and the starting date has not yet been disclosed.

Bonn Research Minister Volker Hauff said last year that demolition of Niederaichbach would be a model for similar work elsewhere.

The power station was commissioned in 1966 and cost the Federal Government, via Karlsruhe, DM130m and Bavaria DM10m.

It has a pressure tube reactor using heavy water as a moderator and carbon dioxide as a coolant. It was operational on an experimental basis for a year and a half.

But there were long delays in construction and before the power station was able to start work. The design concept was by then outmoded and trials were abandoned in July 1974.

The project was abandoned altogether in October 1975, by when it had cost about DM230m.

It has a 100-megawatt experimental reactor and is near Isar I nuclear power station at Ohu, not far from Munich. Since switch-off it has cost DM150,000 a year to maintain and patrol.

Radioactive parts are stored in the reactor's security shell and hermetically sealed from the environment.

Demolition will take place in two phases, according to the Karlsruhe nuclear research centre. In the first two year's technology, planning permission and waste disposal are to be clarified.

Demolition proper will take about four years. During demolition and processing of radioactive parts site workers will be protected both from direct radiation and from intake of radioactive substances.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 September 1979)

Investigations into chemical explosions

Most people feel it is merely a stroke of fate when liquid gas spills out over a Spanish campsite and transforms a holiday idyll into a raging inferno.

They are similarly prepared to accept as a quirk of destiny the gas explosion that transformed a plastics factory at Flixborough, England, into a wasteland.

But scientists devote more serious research to why gas explosions can wreak such havoc in the open air, and this is a branch of safety engineering in which international co-operation is exemplary in both theory and practice.

There were 220 physicists and chemists from 19 countries at the seventh international conference on the gas dynamics of explosive systems, held in Göttingen.

These gatherings are held every other years to enable scientists from all over the world to compare notes.

At Göttingen they dealt mainly with recent research into the interaction of combustion processes and currents of burnt and unburnt gas.

The aim of research is to develop new procedures to measure these processes, and also to use new methods of swift measurement of pressure, temperature and concentration.

Scientists naturally hope to be able to supply the authorities, factory inspectors and firemen and ambulance crews with information to help limit the extent of gas explosion damage.

Industrial plant does not go up in smoke every day of the week. Houses do not explode that often either. But claims are increasing in number.

As technology grows steadily more sophisticated people increasingly often run risks in connection with the manufacture, storage and transport of flammable gas.

To reduce accident risks to a minimum as much as possible must be known about the physical and chemical processes that occur when explosive gas clouds are formed and ignite.

In the past scientists have always faced the problem of being unable to test in full scale the research findings gained on a smaller scale in their laboratories.

But laser engineering has proved a useful aid in recent years. Most work in this sector of safety engineering was reported from the United States.

Work is also in progress in Canada, Britain, France, West Germany and Norway, where North Sea oil is proving a growing safety hazard.

Costly large-scale trials are under way in Japan, while in the East block the Soviet Union does most research. The main emphasis of research in, for instance, Poland is, not surprisingly, on how to prevent gas explosions down the mines.

The havoc wrought by gas explosions was not the only topic dealt with at Göttingen. Papers were also read on controlled use of explosions.

A major objective in this sector is the full-scale manufacture of soot, which makes up 50 per cent of the raw materials that go into car tyres.

Prospects of harnessing gas explosions to shape materials and in mining were also discussed.

Michael Bockemühl

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 September 19...)

Nuclear waste to be buried in salt vaults

Work has begun in preparation for deep drilling in the salt rock at Gorleben, a village on the Elbe at a point where the river marks the border between Lower Saxony and the GDR.

Gorleben is the proposed location of a final resting place for high-grade radioactive waste: in sealed drums down caverns in the salt formations.

But drilling operations are no more than a start. It will be at least another 10 years before probes show conclusively whether the Gorleben salt deposits are suitable for the purpose.

Lower Saxon Premier Ernst Albrecht said in his policy statement to the state assembly in Hanover in May that planning permission was to be given for preliminary drilling.

But he refused to give permission for the construction of a factory to recycle spent nuclear fuel rods. This project, he felt, was not politically feasible at present.

So a Federal government engineering research agency based in Brunswick applied to the mining authorities in Celle for permission to to ahead with deep drilling.

It is expected to take about a year and a half. Three of the five proposed sites for drilling have long been decided. Drilling will be to a depth of 2,000m (6,562ft).

Each drilling operation will take an estimated eight weeks. The aim of drilling the five holes is to chart the rough structure of the salt deposits in greater detail.

Project scientists expect to learn more about rock formations below the salt deposits, about the strata of the salt formations themselves and the nature of the salt.

They hope the deposits will prove to be stone salt, the older geological variety. Potassium salt would be unsuitable as a storage facility for radioactive waste.

Deep drilling will reveal the most suitable location for two main shafts. Further subterranean probes willl require additional planning permission.

It will be needed to excavate at least two shafts to a depth of between 700m and 900m (2,300ft and 2,950ft) for entry and exit.

Only then will miners be able to start excavating tunnels and galleries down below.

Geologists reckon the Gorleben salt deposits have been in their present form for the past 100 million years. The salt was formed about 240 million years ago.

If all goes well they will house radioactive waste from nuclear power stations for a few thousand years.

As plans stand, about 32,000 drums a year will be stored down below. They will each contain 400 litres (100 gallons) of solid or solidified radioactive waste.

Surface drilling has been in progress at Gorleben for some time, but the aim of surface drilling has merely been to check the proposed location of a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant.

This project, shelved for the time being, was planned alongside the underground storage facility as an all-purpose nuclear waste disposal centre.

dpa

(Nordwest Zeitung, 11 September 1979)

■ UTILITIES

Plans for giant superfreighter port in Hamburg 'shelved'

Plans to build a massive new Hamburg port in the Elbe estuary appear to have been shelved.

Hamburg's aim was to join forces with Bonn and other State governments in building berths for superfreighters and tankers of up to 700,000 gross registered tons in the mudflats 10 miles out from Cuxhaven.

But recent reactions from Hamburg city councillors indicates that the project stands little chance of going ahead in the near future at least.

Ulrich Hartmann, leader of the Social Democrat majority on the council, said that the "demand for a deep-water facility... cannot be rated positive."

Hamburg's mayor, Social Democrat Hans-Ulrich Klose, was all in favour of the project a few years ago. A few weeks ago, he sounded much more cautious when he said: "Planning procedures may be inaugurated."

Senate to make decision

Helmuth Kern, a former Senator for Economic Affairs (and Economic Affairs in Hamburg mean, as they always have, first and foremost the port) is as keen as mustard on going ahead with planning procedures.

But the decision is no longer his. It is up to the current Economic Affairs Senator Jürgen Steinert to recommend action.

The Senate as a whole will make the final decision.

No-one knows just which way they will decide, but the likelihood is they will favour a middle-of-the-road approach and decide against planning procedures for the time being. But they are not likely to take the irrevocable decision of scrapping the entire deep-water port project once and for all.

Hamburg basically wants a new port because the Elbe has a strictly limited draught. At present it is a little over 13m (about 43ft) which is just not enough for fully laden 200,000-ton bulk carriers of supertankers.

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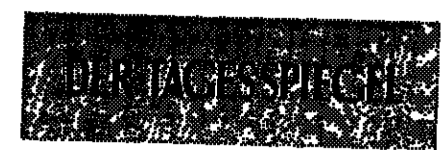
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Now and then they will be joined by scientists, members of the research unit that has probed the islet for years and is one of the last remaining testimonies to Hamburg's ambitious plans.

In 1962 Hamburg exchanged land near Cuxhaven for Scharhörn and Neuwerk, which at that time were owned by Lower Saxony, the city's local government neighbour to the south.

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"Any move Hamburg might undertake in this direction would nullify the credibility of the city's Social Democrats to give greater priority to environmental protection."

Besides, he feels the project is not an economic necessity. Imports of coal, ores, aluminium and chemicals are not expected to increase sufficiently in the near future to make the deep-water and industrial estate profitable.

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So the planners will just have to and see. "Scharhörn/Neuwerk is on proposal," one leading civil servant sociated with the project said some ago. "But we can't do it by ourselves aren't going to push the idea at all"

Lower Saxony plans to concentrate its own ports for the time being.

Karsten P

(Der Tagesspiegel, 9 September

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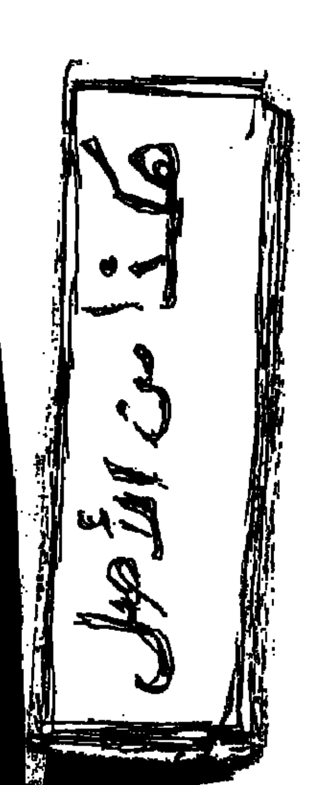
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In comparison with a number of neighbouring European countries, West Germany has a low percentage of owner-occupiers. In this respect, Herr Degner says, it is a "developing country."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 September 1979)



■ ENERGY

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It will take an estimated six years and cost about DM80m but demolition work has yet to begin and the starting date has not yet been disclosed.

Bonn Research Minister Volker Hauff said last year that demolition of Niederaichbach would be a model for similar work elsewhere.

The power station was commissioned in 1966 and cost the Federal Government, via Karlsruhe, DM130m and Bavaria DM10m.

It has a pressure tube reactor using heavy water as a moderator and carbon dioxide as a coolant. It was operational on an experimental basis for a year and a half.

But there were long delays in construction and before the power station was able to start work. The design concept was by then outmoded and trials were abandoned in July 1974.

The project was abandoned altogether in October 1975, by when it had cost about DM230m.

It has a 100-megawatt experimental reactor and is near Isar I nuclear power station at Ohu, not far from Munich. Since switch-off it has cost DM150,000 a year to maintain and patrol.

Radioactive parts are stored in the reactor's security shell and hermetically sealed from the environment.

Demolition will take place in two phases, according to the Karlsruhe nuclear research centre. In the first two year's technology, planning permission and waste disposal are to be clarified.

Demolition proper will take about four years. During demolition and processing of radioactive parts site workers will be protected both from direct radiation and from intake of radioactive substances.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 September 1979)

Nuclear waste to be buried in salt vaults

Work has begun in preparation for deep drilling in the salt rock at Gorleben, a village on the Elbe at a point where the river marks the border between Lower Saxony and the GDR.

Gorleben is the proposed location of a final resting place for high-grade radioactive waste: in sealed drums down caverns in the salt formations.

But drilling operations are no more than a start. It will be at least another 10 years before probes show conclusively whether the Gorleben salt deposits are suitable for the purpose.

Lower Saxon Premier Ernst Albrecht said in his policy statement to the state assembly in Hanover in May that planning permission was to be given for preliminary drilling.

But he refused to give permission for the construction of a factory to recycle spent nuclear fuel rods. This project, he felt, was not politically feasible at present.

So a Federal government engineering research agency based in Brunswick applied to the mining authorities in Celle for permission to to ahead with deep drilling.

It is expected to take about a year and a half. Three of the five proposed sites for drilling have long been decided. Drilling will be to a depth of 2,000m (6,562ft).

Each drilling operation will take an estimated eight weeks. The aim of drilling the five holes is to chart the rough structure of the salt deposits in greater detail.

Project scientists expect to learn more about rock formations below the salt deposits, about the strata of the salt formations themselves and the nature of the salt.

They hope the deposits will prove to be stone salt, the older geological variety. Potassium salt would be unsuitable as a storage facility for radioactive waste.

"Deep drilling will reveal the most suitable location for two main shafts. Further subterranean probes willl require additional planning permission.

It will be needed to excavate at least two shafts to a depth of between 700m and 900m (2,300ft and 2,950ft) for entry and exit.

Only then will miners be able to start excavating tunnels and galleries down below.

Geologists reckon the Gorleben salt deposits have been in their present form for the past 100 million years. The salt was formed about 240 million years ago.

If all goes well they will house radioactive waste from nuclear power stations for a few thousand years.

As plans stand, about 32,000 drums a year will be stored down below. They will each contain 400 litres (100 gallons) of solid or solidified radioactive waste.

Surface drilling has been in progress at Gorleben for some time, but the aim of surface drilling has merely been to check the proposed location of a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant.

This project, shelved for the time being, was planned alongside the underground storage facility as an all-purpose nuclear waste disposal centre.

dpa

(Nordwest Zeitung, 11 September 1979)

Investigations into chemical explosions

Most people feel it is merely a stroke of fate when liquid gas spills out over a Spanish campsite and transforms a holiday idyll into a raging inferno.

They are similarly prepared to accept as a quirk of destiny the gas explosion that transformed a plastics factory at Flixborough, England, into a wasteland.

But scientists devote more serious research to why gas explosions can wreak such havoc in the open air, and this is a branch of safety engineering in which international co-operation is exemplary in both theory and practice.

There were 220 physicists and chemists from 19 countries at the seventh international conference on the gas dynamics of explosive systems, held in Göttingen.

These gatherings are held every other years to enable scientists from all over the world to compare notes.

At Göttingen they dealt mainly with recent research into the interaction of combustion processes and currents of burnt and unburnt gas.

The aim of research is to develop new procedures to measure these processes, and also to use new methods of swift measurement of pressure, temperature and concentration.

Scientists naturally hope to be able to supply the authorities, factory inspectors and firemen and ambulance crews with information to help limit the extent of gas explosion damage.

Industrial plant does not go up in smoke every day of the week. Houses do not explode that often either. But claims are increasing in number.

As technology grows steadily more sophisticated people increasingly often run risks in connection with the manufacture, storage and transport of flammable gas.

To reduce accident risks to a minimum as much as possible must be known about the physical and chemical processes that occur when explosive gas clouds are formed and ignite.

In the past scientists have always faced the problem of being unable to test in full scale the research findings gained on a smaller scale in their laboratories.

But laser engineering has proved a useful aid in recent years. Most work in this sector of safety engineering was reported from the United States.

Work is also in progress in Canada, Britain, France, West Germany and Norway, where North Sea oil is proving a growing safety hazard.

Costly large-scale trials are under way in Japan, while in the East block the Soviet Union does most research. The main emphasis of research in, for instance, Poland is, not surprisingly, on how to prevent gas explosions down the mines.

The havoc wrought by gas explosions was not the only topic dealt with at Göttingen. Papers were also read on controlled use of explosions.

A major objective in this sector is the full-scale manufacture of soot, which makes up 50 per cent of the raw materials that go into car tyres.

Prospects of harnessing gas explosions to shape materials and in mining were also discussed.

Michael Bockemühl

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 September 1979)

■ PEOPLE IN THE ARTS

The unequalled rise of Moses Mendelssohn

When it comes to a nation's intellectual history, dynasties don't count. The leading middle-class families of artists and academics are what matters.

In Germany it was the Wagners and the Manns, in Britain the Huxleys, Stracheys and Trevelyans. They all most clearly personified the epochs they helped to create.

Talent was handed on from one generation to the next; religious and ideological outlooks changed with the times.

The Mendelssohn family was similarly characteristic of the progress of German Jews. In four to five generations covering the Enlightenment, the Romantic era and extending to the *Neue Sachlichkeit* of the Weimar Republic they made a significant controbution to the philosophy, philology, literature, music, law and natural sciences in their chosen country.

Moses Mendelssohn, the founder of the family, is perhaps most characteristic



Moses Mendelssohn

(Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

of the Jews' fateful love of Germany and things German.

He was the first practising Jew to publish in German, and although it was not his native language he spoke it with much-vaunted dignity and elegance.

He was the first Jewish scholar to immerse himself in the patterns of thought of German metaphysics. Eventually he became, in Kant's words, a "perfect paradigm of Enlightenment metaphysics."

He never studied at university or underment higher education, yet for decades he wielded a decisive influence on German culture and civilisation.

At the same the he was, for a world that despite growing tolerance still despised the Jews, the epitome of a good and honest man. He was the man on whom the playwright Lessing modelled his *Nathan the Wise*.

From rags to riches is a widespread 20th century myth. How much more fabulous, in the true sense of the word, is the attainment of a wealth of knowledge by someone born and bred in intellectual poverty!

In this there can be none to equal Moses Mendelssohn, who was born on 6 September 1729 in the Dessau ghetto.

His father Mendel Heymann, was a curate and schoolman. Until the age of 14 Moses spoke only Yiddish and understood Hebrew. He learnt the law of the Talmud and the commentaries of the Torah.

He had to learn by himself the wisdom of the great Jewish scholars. There was no-one to teach him.

But his mother came from a famous family. One of her forebears was Moses Isserless, 1520—1572, a Cracow scholar, and Dessau court official Moses Benjamin Wulff was a close relative.

Yet Moses grew up in hardship and when, in 1743, he decided to leave home and follow his teacher, Rabbi David Fränkel, to Berlin he had to beg his way from door to door.

What incomparable willpower he showed at an early age in his quest for intellectual nourishment! For days and nights on end he forced his crippled body (he had a spinal deformity) to read, read, read.

While still in Dessau and not yet 14 he read the *Guide for the Undecided*, written in 1190 by Moses Maimonides to try and reconcile religion and reason.

"I owe Maimon my humpback," he later said. "He weakened my body but he strengthened my soul."

What is more, Maimon's attempt to combine faith and reason continued to determine Moses Mendelssohn's thought, to shape a lifetime in the service of religion and philosophy.

His progress during his early years in Berlin is easily outlined but cannot have been easy to go through. He arrived there still half a child, a cripple with a speech impediment, alone and without a penny in the world.

At Rosenthaler Tor, the city gate, he paid the pittance required of visitors to the city and spent long years in material hardship but intellectual enlightenment.

Not until 1750 did he find a reasonably safe material haven as tutor to the Bernhard children, whose father was a silk manifacturer. This post also gave him more leisure in which to pursue his studies and publications.

He never was able to give up working for a living. He only managed to go about the purpose of his life as he saw it in the early hours before teaching the master's children at 8am, then setting out for the silkworks.

He was later to become the hub of a group of artists and scholars and the host at Berlin's first Enlightenment salon. But even in these later years he first had to do a full days work at the office.

He once said that he seemed condemned to trot through life with a pack on his back like a mule when his natural inclinations and talents might have been those of a racehorse.

Small wonder his feeble body repeatedly broke down under the burden of everyday hardship and continual intellectual tension.

When he first met Lessing they were both 25 and Menselssohn was already his full self, as it were.

He had learnt logic, Euclidian mathematics and art history from a Jewish fellow-tenant. He was fully conversant with German, French, English and Latin. He had read the most important works by major ancient and modern thinkers.

After Maimonides three philosophical works pointed the way ahead, as he saw it. They were Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Leibniz' *Essais de Théodicée* and Christian von Wolffs *Vernünftige Gedanken*.

His intellectual edifice had firm foundations and was not to be shaken even by the fierce controversy with Lavater and his friend Jacobi.

Lessing and Mendelssohn were bound by lifelong friendship in which Friedrich Nicolai later joined them. It was a fertile association of bright and open minds.

They jointly penned writings, edited magazines and corresponded gleefully, wittily and profoundly. Their friendship was one of the most gratifying phenomena of the Enlightenment in Berlin.

Mendelssohn inspired Lessing to write *Nathan* and *Laokoön*. They were co-authors of an ironical essay entitled Pope, a Metaphysicist.

He felt entirely at one with Lessing's views until his enemy Jacobi tried to change his mind. The two men, the Christian and the Jew, were able to abide by the same principles because each challenged dogmatism in his creed in his own way.

Mendelssohn remained a Jew. He felt a philosophical necessity to do so. Since the days of Maimonides Jewish scholars had sought to reconcile reason and faith. Besides, Judaism was not a revealed religion but a revealed law.

"As a Jew I had a special reason," he wrote, "to seek conviction by means of rational argument."

Admittedly, he never went further than speculative philosophy. He fully embodied the stage of the Enlightenment that preceded the beginnings of empirical thought.

He won a prize awarded by the Berlin Academy of Sciences with a comparison of metaphysical and mathematical truths in which he argued that the former were less certain than the latter.

But he dealt with apparent problems all his life. He feld reason was capable of more than was actually the case, as Kant was later to say of him.

He was not to be dissuaded from the formative ideas of Leibniz and Wolff. He might have been overtaken by the Critique of Pure Reason, written by a philosopher he decribed as Kant the man who pulverises everything, but he was content to defend his intellectual outlook to the last.

He proclaimed it unfailingly in everything he wrote. His main work *Phaedon oder Über die Unsterblichkeit der Seele* (Phaedon or the Immortiality of the Soul), published in 1767, he followed in Plato's and Socrates' footsteps in listing one reason after another for a transcendental world order.

He believed in it implicitly, as his heartbreaking letter to a friend on the death of his first child as a baby shows: "I cannot believe that God put us on this Earth like foam on the crest of a wave."

A shorter work, *Jerusalem oder Über die religiöse Macht und Judentum* (Jerusalem or On Religious Power and Judaism), published in 1783, he advocated separation of Church and State, freedom or religion and autonomy of morals.

His *Morgenstunden* (Morning Hours), 1775, sought to prove the existence of God by rational means. This provoked hostility on the part of dogmatic advocates of Christianity.

Johann Caspar Lavater, who had once admired Mendelssohn's "Socratic soul in an Aesopian mantle," plunged him in the gravest crisis he ever experienced.

In 1769 Lavater called on Mendelssohn either to disprove the proof of Christianity put together by Professor Charles Bonnet of Geneva or to become a convert to Christianity.

Mendelssohn evaded this dilemma with such grace and dignity that Lavater eventually begged forgiveness.

But he suffered so severely in the course of this dispute and its public repercussions that he contracted a nervous complaint and was unable for years to devote himself to intellectual pursuits.

He only kept going and was kept going for and by his family, his petite blonde wife and the children.

When he recommenced publishing Mendelssohn turned his back on the problems of German methaphysics and dealt with those of Judaism instead.

His German translation of the Pentateuch, the Psalms and the Song of Solomon made it easier for his co-religionists in Germany to go in for education.

In 1785, when Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi again involved him in an academic dispute, he suffered a final breakdown.

Mendelssohn was laid flat by a cold, broken in body and spirit. He died on 4 January 1786 aged 56 of an apoplectic fit, with a bust of his beloved Lessing on the mantlepiece in front of him.

He certainly manned his post all his life, the life of a man of the Enlightenment who combined a belief in God

Continued on page 11

A writer with vision – Marianne Langewiesche

Marianne Langewiesche died on 4 September aged 70. She was a writer who loved the South in general and Italy in particular, and for decades it proved a heartfelt, productive love.

She did not make light of her work. How convenient and profitable it might have been if she had used her family connections (her father was a publisher).

How easily might she have appealed to male generosity, calling on fellow-writers to excuse female shortcomings or coquetry.

But that was not her way. Without in any way being ceremonious or aloof she had no patience with the formlessness, follies and slapdash manners of the literary set.

She managed to hold her own on the strenght of her own talents. She was only just over 30 when she made a name for herself with her "Queen of the Seas – Tale of a City", a novel about Venice that was translated into many languages.

She established a reputation not only as a writer of fiction but also as a connoisseur of history. She went on to write a good many scholarly travel books, short stories, historical work on the Old Testament, the French Revolution and the burghers of Calais.

She sounded a slightly ironic note in one book of impressions entitled *Mit Federkiel und Besenstiel. Poetische Betrachtungen einer Hausfrau* (With Quill and Brush Handle. Poetical Observations of a Housewife).

Frau Langewiesche had a forte that many inordinately speculative writers lack: she had the gift of vision. She was able to visualise objects lovingly without intruding subjectively.

Small wonder she enjoyed broadcasting but was, as she said, less keen on drama than on what she called radio pictures. They were a genre all of her own.

Marianne Langewiesche was born on 16 November 1908 near Munich. She died after a lengthy illness and leaves behind many friends.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 September 1979)

■ THE ARTS

Revolt in the village of artists as boutiques push out studios

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The artists of Worpswede are trying to change things. They are concerned that the village is being promoted for the sake of tourism as an artist colony while at the same time young artists are finding it difficult to get studio space.

Worpswede, near Bremen became a centre for artists in 1889 when Düsseldorf artist Fritz Mackensen decided that it was just the place to provide inspiration.

Since then its reputation has flourished and it has become an outsized museum on the schedule of every tourist, a holiday spot for city people, and a magnet for clever businessmen.

But the artists, naturally, resent the increasing dominance of the commercial element.

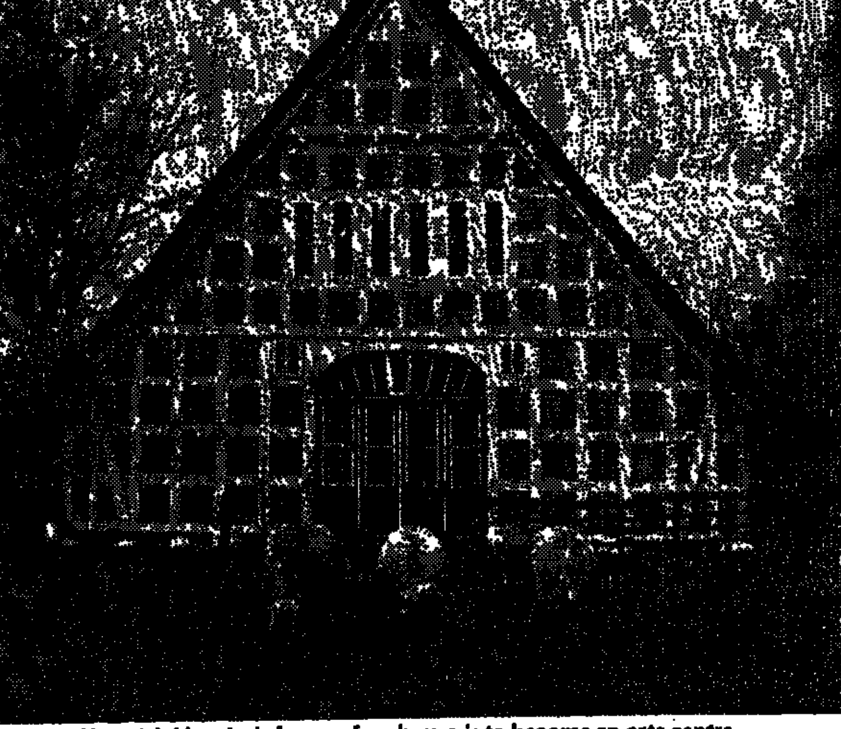
Only a few days ago, young artists founded the Worpswede Society of Freelance Artists. A similar society calling itself Association of Worpswede Artists and Lovers of Art has been in existence for a long time.

The objective of the new society is to improve the incomes and working conditions of artists. And they are certainly in need of improvement, especially since the newcomers to Worpswede find it extremely hard to rent houses and studios at tolerable prices.

In addition, the former creamery is being turned into a costly art centre, and Heinrich Vogeler's former Barkenhof farm, world-renowned for decades, is soon to become a centre for artists of all kinds.

The village has had studio houses for scholarship holders for years, but the number of applicants is growing constantly. So the artists have decided to act.

Young artists attempting to follow in the footsteps of artists such as Fritz Mackensen, Heinrich Vogeler, Fritz Overbeck, Otto Modersohn and Hans Am Ende must be prepared to face hard work and disappointment.



Heinrich Vogeler's former farmhouse is to become an arts centre

(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

Once there was ample space for studios, ceramics workshops or writers' desks.

Now galleries are mushrooming as are boutiques and antique shops.

It is obvious that in these conditions newcomers soon lose the enthusiasm they had on arrival.

Yet all they expect of the city fathers and the government in general is help towards self-help.

Most of these newcomers have no ambition to start a new Worpswede School, and all they want is to work in peace.

Worpswede's famous art nouveau artist Heinrich Vogeler once said that an artist should be able to create his own world in absolute freedom.

Vogeler's disciples and artistic descendents share this view, but they have no illusions. They know that the idyllic conditions of Worpswede can hardly be restored and that the "Blue Flower" has given way to weed.

Only artistic quality will decide Worpswede's future, not the growing number of tourist buses or full hotels.

When the Düsseldorf artist Mackensen arrived in Worpswede in 1889 he found a remote village with all the quaintness necessary to inspire the artists, who had already settled there. This "intact world" is in ruins.

But now, with the restoration of Heinrich Vogeler's Barkenhof (Vogeler was an idealistic communist), soon to provide a new home for artists, the newcomers can once more hope that all will be well.

Of course, nothing will be given to them — not even should they need a once only financial shot in the arm — nor are they likely to get the coveted scholarships that would enable them to spend some time in the studio houses near the Worpswede mill.

Apart from the intention to develop the new cultural and art centre in the former creamery, plans are also under way to convert the Worpswede railroad station, which was designed in art nouveau style by Heinrich Vogeler.

Some of the valuable inventory of the station is still in existence, and the Friends of Worpswede Society has already secured it for further still undisclosed projects.

What is happening in Worpswede today is frequently seen in a critical light as, for instance, by the most famous of the younger Worpswede artists, Fritz Meckseper. He denies that the Worpswede landscape has in any way influenced his work.

For the rest, he maintains that: "Painting as an art form came to an end more than 200 years ago."

Walter A. Bauer

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 September 1979)

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with belief in the rational laws governing mankind.

But four of his six children began the apostasy of the Mendelssohn family, converting to Christianity. It does not seem to have stopped many of their descendants from being expelled or exterminated not long ago.

Abraham Mendelssohn was his second son. Abraham's brother-in-law Jakob Bartholdy wrote to him when he decided to christen his children Felix and Fanny:

"It is virtually paying homage to your father's efforts to bring about true Enlightenment. One can retain allegiance to an oppressed religion as long as one feels it is the only true faith. But as soon as one no longer does so it is mere barbarity."

So the last barrier that separated this Jewish family from their German environment fell during the 19th century. The children and grandchildren of the man who all his life used a seam with a Hebrew inscription that read "Moses, the alien from Dessau," were at home all over Germany.

But Germany was not always to give them a home.

Hilde Spiel

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 September 1979)

Top attraction is a museum that never was

Seven per cent of people polled in a Bremen survey rate the city's top cultural attraction as the Museum of Labour. But there is no such museum.

The survey dealt with leisure and holiday habits and was commissioned by the Bremen Senator for Science and Art, Horst Werner Franke.

One of the questions asked what the city's most attractive cultural event is. Several options were offered including, as an experiment, a non-existent "museum of labour".

The survey, carried out by the Centre for Cultural Research, found that almost a third of Bremen people stayed at home for their holiday and that another 15 per cent stayed at home for part of their holiday.

Most of those who did not go away were large families and blue collar workers. Yet it is particularly in the summer, when most people take their vacations, that cultural events are out of season and thus unavailable to stay-at-homes.

About half of the large families and blue collar workers stayed home for financial reasons. But due to their large number, even the many recently introduced street and borough festivals proved unable to satisfy the cultural needs.

The study not only provided data on the public's participation in cultural events in the city proper and its suburbs. It also delved into formerly unknown needs and new forms of expression to enable cultural policy makers to gear events to popular requirements.

Among the basic data are those concerning social aspects.

One-third of the working population still keenly feels the contrast between work and leisure time, suffering from the burdens imposed by work. As a result, they use what leisure time, suffering from the burdens imposed by work. As a result, they use what leisure time they have to offset the nervous strain of work. Most do so by listening to music and watching television.

Sport as a leisure time activity is not much in favour with blue-collar workers.

Cultural activities are viewed as a rather exceptional pleasure and hobbies are considered as work.

Two-fifths of the population are culturally "under-developed", the study says, "but they could be reached if a need were created."

This applies particularly to blue-collar workers, civil servants and the lower echelon of office workers.

There are considerable obstacles in introducing cultural events to those people, among them the fact that the areas in which they live are usually far removed from cultural institutions.

Moreover, the cost of tickets is too high and the necessity to dress up creates further barriers — not to mention those due to educational shortcomings.

Statistics show that only 20 per cent of unskilled workers are interested in culture in the traditional sense.

Policy makers will therefore have to provide more borough-related cultural events. Nine per cent of those interviewed feel that the trade unions should also become more active in culture and recreation.

Says one interviewee: "The trade unions have done less than expected of them in these areas."

No-one, regardless of his social station, wants to curtail traditional cultural events. Instead, culture should expand and retain its character of commitment.

Thirty-three per cent hold that the arts and artists should show more commitment on behalf of the underprivileged members of society. This figure is 16 per cent higher than in nation-wide polls in 1974, when the same question was asked.

The findings of the Bremen study also apply to other cities and politicians will have to draw their conclusions.

"Measures to improve our work in the cultural sector cannot be aimed at making the man who follows a military band go to a classical concert," says Herr Franke (SPD), Bremen's Senator for Science and Art, intimating the future course of action.

Wolfgang Schmitz

(Vorwärts, 6 September 1979)

■ EDUCATION

Universities pioneer transnational business management course

Three economics universities in three European countries have introduced special international business courses.

The courses are intended to fill a gap in managerial ability: EEC businesses, government authorities and other institutions are short of staff with an adequate knowledge of other countries.

The universities are the Osnabrück School of Economics, the Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education in England, and the *Ecole Supérieure de Commerce et d'Administration des Enterprises* (ESCAE) in France.

Backed by the EEC Commission, they are introducing a broadly based curriculum dealing not only with foreign languages but with foreign mores, laws, mentalities and the like.

So the attention of professors Blum and Gehmlich of Osnabrück has been lately riveted on the development of foreign language studies in local schools.

They want to find out whether there will be enough future students of economics with an adequate knowledge of French — ready to feed straight into the university course, and good enough to take lecture notes in French at the ESCAE.

An Osnabrück spokesman said: "Especially medium-sized and small companies have managed in the past few years to expand their trade relations within the Community. But the volume of their business is not large enough to warrant the employment of specialists and translators."

The consequences arising from this assessment of the situation are equally to the point: businessmen wanting to remain competitive must not only have a reasonable knowledge of one foreign language but should also train abroad.

The three schools in High Wycombe, Clermont-Ferrand and Osnabrück have therefore agreed on an exchange programme to enable students to spend at least a full semester in a partner country and to gain practical experience.

This is preceded by introductory courses of several weeks, providing the students not only with language tuition but also imparting knowledge in their particular fields.

All this has enlivened the everyday scene. There can be no question that there is a close link between business administration and knowledge of foreign languages.

But the introduction of language courses in the study of economics requires more than noncommittal declarations of intent.

There is, for instance, the problem of finding suitable quarters for French and British students in Osnabrück, and there is the even greater problem of providing trainee positions in various firms because the foreign students must be paid equitably since they have to pay their own way.

The new scheme would probably have foundered despite encouragement from various chambers of commerce and industry had not a supra-national authority supported the move and provided modest funding. This was the EEC Commission which, in 1976, decided to promote the development of joint study programmes at member nations' universities.

The effectiveness of the innovation soon became obvious: 81 projects were initiated in the school years 76/77 and 78/79, involving up to five EEC universities and dealing with such subjects as politics, history, sociology and even city rehabilitation.

The interest in these projects is so lively that the number of applications this year is 40 per cent higher than in 1978.

This belies the contention that students are unwilling to go abroad. All they need is a practice-oriented course as an incentive.

For Osnabrück, the problem is to find enough students with an adequate knowledge of French to enable them to attend courses at the *Ecole Supérieure* in Clermont-Ferrand.

This makes it clear that professional training in the EEC does not start at university level.

Klaus-U. Ebmeyer

(Deutsche Zeitung, 7 September 1979)

Small classes have problems too, warns minister

Small school classes can increase stress, and not reduce it, according to North Rhine-Westphalia's Education Minister Jürgen Girgensohn.

The classic remedy for classroom stress has been to reduce the number of pupils.

This has actually happened in elementary and secondary schools because of low birth rates.

But Herr Girgensohn, a former teacher, now warns of the dangers.

Complains a 9-year-old: "Things were much nicer before when there were 36 in our class. Today we are only 17, and everybody is questioned at least once every period."

The boy's complaint is shared by many.

Herr Girgensohn says: "I, too, was a student and I know how it was with big classes. Hiding behind the back of the fellow in front, we occupied ourselves with all sorts of things instead of listening to the teacher."

In the small classes of today there is no "fellow in front". The children sit in a circle and everybody is in the front row. The teacher sees instantly who has come to school unprepared. Besides, when sitting alone at your desk there is no one to whisper the right answer.

Minister Girgensohn is far from claiming that the youngsters want to malinger at school. But he does stress that they can no longer let their minds wander for a few moments at a time. They have to concentrate and are tested more frequently than before.

To prevent this from overtaxing the children, teachers must change the style of instruction they are used to with large classes.

In a small class, the teacher can devote more time to the indiuvidual child since it is easier to teach 17 than to teach 36. Correcting homework also takes only half the time, and this extra time should be used to make instruction more varied.

Why not have a birthday party from time to time, asks Herr Girgensohn. This would make school more humane and provide the children with a welcome break.

The number of elementary school students diminished by 328,000 (or 28 per cent) to 850,000 in the past seven years in North Rhine-Westphalia. There are now already 6,100 classes of fewer than 20 and 654 of fewer than 14. The development in other *Länder* is similar.

The Teachers' Union (GEW) has also called on its members to change their style by providing more individual attention. But this does not mean less preparatory work.

Horst Zimmermann

(Der Tagesspiegel, 6 September 1979)

Bonn steps up promotion of German around the world

The Bonn Foreign Office has stepped up its cultural efforts abroad with emphasis on tuition in German.

State Minister Hildegard Hamm-Brücher said the Foreign Office intends to allocate more funds for foreign cultural policy. In fact, the budget for this purpose has, in percentage terms, outstripped overall increases in spending.

For 1980, the increase will amount to 30 per cent.

There are a total of 16 to 17 million students attending German courses at secondary schools in 61 countries. The East Bloc countries account for the lion's share of 12 million.

Some 1.2 million students study German at university level, and another three to four million in adult education courses.

There are some 150,000 foreign teachers of German and 1,900 German departments at foreign schools; 480 schools abroad receive subsidies from Bonn for their German Departments; and there are 118 Goethe Institutes staffed by 52 counsellors and 350 lecturers. They provide language courses, scholarships, exchange programmes and holiday courses.

There are wide differences from country to country concerning the development of the interest in the German language.

In developing countries, the interest in German has lately been more concerned with the language as a technical instrument rather than its literary aspect.

The Foreign Office priorities in promoting the teaching of German abroad are as follows: In Western Europe, where German is firmly entrenched at secondary schools and universities, Bonn wants to maintain and develop the present position.

The promotion of German studies will receive priority in southern Europe because of the impending EEC memberships of Greece, Portugal and Spain and with a view to reaching the children of former South European workers in this country who have returned home.

The expansion of German tuition on secndary school level in Portugal will receive particular attention.

The traditionally weak interest in German as a foreign language in the United States and Canada is to be countered by motivating the students.

The number of German schools in those countries is to be increased since the only German school in North America is that in Washington. German schools will be opened in New York, Toronto and Montreal in the autumn of 1980.

The number of courses for adults in Latin America is to be increased.

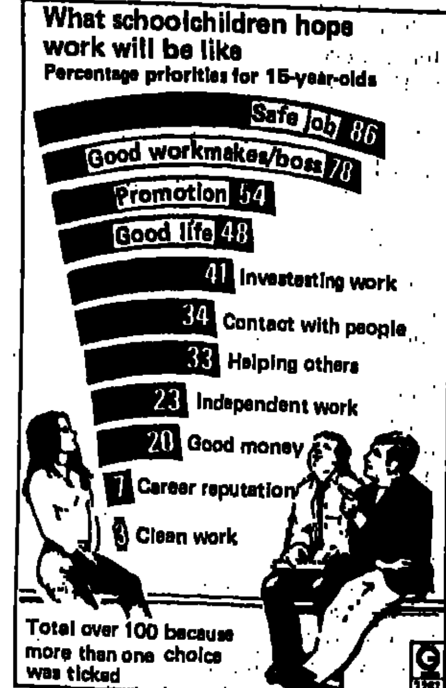
In Asia, the emphasis of German language promotion lies on Japan, Korea, Indonesia, India and China.

In the Middle East and some north African states, stepped up demands by governments for the promotion of German tuition will be met, provided they are realistic.

Bonn does not only want to promote the knowledge of German but also German culture in a broad sense.

"Essentially, Germany's image abroad is that of a flourishing industrialised nation rather than of a nation with a great cultural heritage. There are, however, exceptions, as borne out by the exhibition 'Paris-Berlin' in France," said Hildegard Hamm-Brücher.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 September 1979)



Safe job, good vibes

Job safety would matter most in their careers, 15- and 16-year-old schoolchildren told pollsters from the Institute of Labour Market and Vocational Research, Nuremberg.

So young people clearly seem to have noticed what their parents have been through in recent years of rising unemployment.

Schoolchildren also attach great importance to a good working atmosphere (so do the gainfully employed).

A number of schoolchildren expect their future jobs to hold forth the prospect of getting on by dint of hard work and further education.

Good money comes low on the scale, but probably because a good wage or salary is regarded as a matter of course.

■ MEDICINE

Constant pill taking 'can hide major illnesses'

People who constantly take pills for minor ailments run the risk of disguising the symptoms of serious complaints until it is too late.

Professor H.E. Bock of Tübingen said at the Karlsruhe Therapy Week that healthy people do not need medicine when they are a little under the weather.

The human body is usually well able to deal by itself with minor upsets, but this presupposes the individual has learnt his lesson.

Once you have taken pills to relieve a headache you are likely to continue doing so.

Many people, both adults and children, feel a meal is incomplete without an accompanying pill of some kind or other.

There is a widespread belief that medication is the only cure for illness. It is a belief that can prove extremely dangerous.

Pains are symptoms of sickness. If they are continually suppressed by medication serious complaints may not be diagnosed until it is too late.

The professor recalled that many healthy people habitually took pills "as a subjective or objective, fantastic or feasible, meaningful or pointless precaution" to stay younger longer or the like.

He included in this category the contraceptive pill, geriatric drugs and youth cures and the misuse of drugs in sport (doping).

Undesirable side-effects were the result, but abuse, habituation and addiction followed. Recent trends had been so alarming they must be halted.

But alcohol and nicotine showed how difficult it was to reverse the trend. Both had been consumed for decades by large numbers of people who were well aware of the health hazard and should have known better.

Medicine nowadays is taken not only to treat illness but also, at times, to prevent it. Vaccination, for instance, gives the patient a mild dose of the complaint so the body can develop antibodies.

And a jab undeniably does afford protection from the complaint in question for some time. But vaccines are only one example of the use of medication in preventive medicine.

Professor Bock mentioned a number of instances in which drugs play a valid part in preventive medicine. Take, for instance, the drug that is usually administered to patients before an operation.

It is not intended to cure or relieve the complaint, merely to pacify the patient and pave the way for anaesthesia, to reduce troublesome reflexes and predictable side-effects.

Anaesthetics too are a case in point. Without them many major operations would be impossible. But drugs are also administered to the healthy as part of diagnosis, such as X-ray treatment.

When reactor mishaps occur, doctors advise taking iodine and potassium tablets to deactivate the thyroid gland. Half a gram of potassium iodide is enough, they claim, to prevent the thyroid gland temporarily from laying in a stockpile of radioactive iodine.

The professor said it was hard to judge whether this would be enough to prevent a critical overall burden of fallout from affecting the body.

Preventive medication did not always have the desired effect by any means. Diarrhoea as a traveller's complaint is better dealt with by hygienic precautions than by taking tablets.

The borderline between prevention and therapy cannot always clearly be drawn, as the use of beta blockers as a preventive with cardiac patients for many years has shown.

Clofibrat, a controversial drug recently relicensed by the Federal Health Office, is put to similar use. It reduces the cholesterol count, and with it the risk of a heart attack.

There are many ways in which drugs are administered nowadays as a medical precaution. Some, for instance, are given to prevent the birth of babies with congenital diseases.

Even such a seemingly harmless drug as aspirin comes into this category when it is taken by otherwise healthy people on a doctor's recommendation to prevent varicose veins.

Heart patients are regularly prescribed drugs to prevent clotting. They can lead to internal bleeding, but keeping artificial blood vessels open is usually more important in such cases.

So the doctor has to weigh up the advantages and drawbacks on the merits of the individual case.

Preventive medication can be extremely useful. Pharmaceutical laboratories are currently hard at work developing new geriatric drugs and drugs to treat arteriosclerosis.

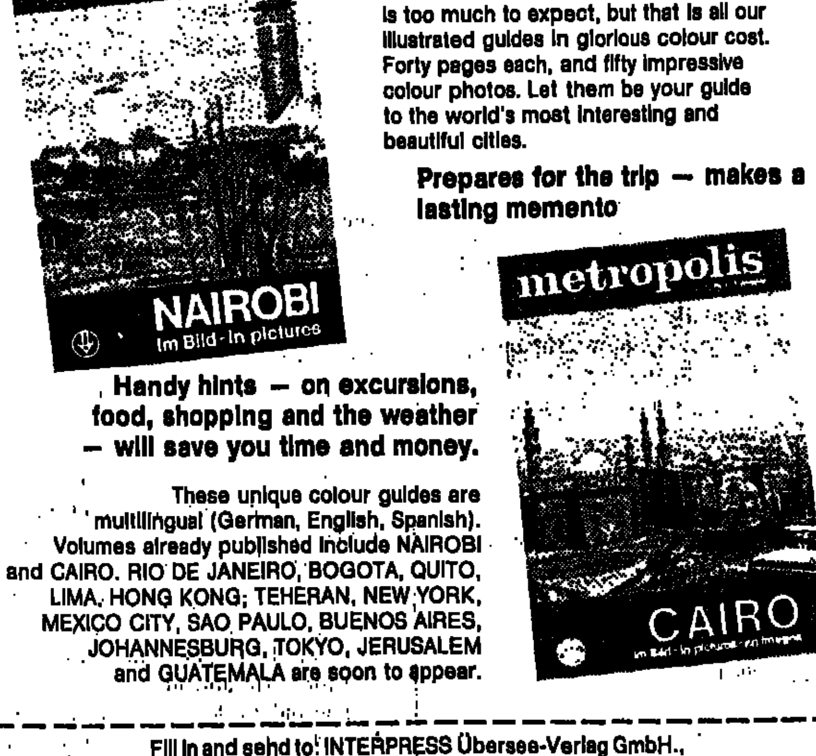
But many questions are still unanswered and Professor Bock said preventive medicine urgently needs the services of the clinical pharmacologist.

He is the man who puts the wide range of preventive drugs on the market through their laboratory paces, thereby establishing them on a much sounder pharmacological footing.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 September 1979)

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Cancer theory 'just guessing'

At the Munich international magnetism conference US physicist A. J. Freeman dismissed as speculative reports that magnetism may cause cancer.

He was referred to recent discoveries that even tiny bacteria react to magnetic fields and arrange themselves accordingly.

But "it is conceivable cells get out of order when biomagnetic currents are disturbed," he conceded.

Weak magnetic currents are emitted by the brain and cardiac muscle and can now be measured to diagnose certain physical or mental complaints.

But the medical profession has yet to discover therapeutical possibilities that might arise from this discovery.

"If magnetic effects on biological organisms are to be expected," said Munich physicist Rudolf Mössbauer, "then only in the microscopic sector, but that is ample."

Professor Mössbauer won the Nobel Prize for the discovery of the effect that bears his name.

Experiments in a number of countries are aimed at influencing genes by means of electromagnetic waves. In Japan wheat grows faster in magnetic fields, in the Soviet Union they are used to soften water.

Magnetism may also prove a winner in energy supply, said Siegfried Immanuel Methfessel of Bochum. Professor Methfessel reckoned billions could be saved all over the world if friction in transformers could be reduced.

Transformers are used at all stages of the power network, but utilities have so far shunned the investment because it was expected to be heavy and would call for more and more complicated raw materials.

But some commodities, such as cobalt, are growing scarcer, so other alloys of metals and rare earths with magnetic properties will have to be tried out.

Professor Werner Zinn of Jülich nuclear research centre said the aim of research in this sphere was to develop materials tailor-made for specific uses.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 5 September 1979)

To operate or not to operate: a major surgical poser

Preventive and restorative surgery was a major topic at the ninth European rheumatology congress in Wiesbaden. To operate or not to operate is often the question.

Minor surgery is warranted only when progressive degeneration can no longer be kept at bay by medication.

It may, for instance, be a synovectomy, or removal of the inflammation-prone membrane of connective tissue that lines tendon sheaths and capsular ligaments.

Surgical removal of similarly affected tendon sheat tissue may also be necessary. Surgery is a strain on the patient, but it holds forth a fair prospect of success.

More than one million West Germans suffer from rheumatoid arthritis and an even larger number suffer from degenerative, non-inflammatory joint trouble.

So they will certainly be pleased to learn that surgery can stop the rot, but if several joints are already arthritic or the patient seeks treatment when the disease is too far gone further surgery will be necessary.

The decision should be left to a specialist. The orthopaedic surgeon may opt for bone or tissue surgery to reset deformed joints or he may choose to stiffen joints.

He may reshape joints with or without additional material or restore ruined tendons.

Corrective surgery is mainly undertaken on hands, feet and knees. Operations to stiffen joints in a convenient position may also provide relief.

To refashion ruined joints the joint surfaces are remade with tissue taken from other parts of the patient's body and fresh ligaments built up. This can be done on fingers and toes, hands and elbows.

For more than a decade artificial joints have been available for practically every bone in the body, but the patient must be fully grown before a replacement can be fitted.

The longer surgery is postponed, the better for the patient. The last word has yet to be said on the durability of material used in artificial joints.

(Die Welt, 5 September 1979)

■ MODERN LIVING

Now the keeping-you-beautiful industry goes for luxury

People wanting to keep their beauty need no longer put in a stint of monastic isolation at a remote health farm.

In fact the theory now goes that is just what is *not* wanted.

The latest idea is to cosset the body in an "harmonious and elegant" atmosphere with the maximum of creature comforts.

So a company called Lancaster Ltd has decided to turn its attention to the trend.

Its beauty farm in Rottach-Egern on the shores of Tegernsee has for years been an integral part of the Bachmair Hotel, one of the finest in this country, and the waiting time for applicants — both male and female — is several months.

The success of its Rottach-Egern establishment has prompted Lancaster to start a second farm. This has been operational for some weeks as part of the world-renowned Brenner's Park Hotel in Baden-Baden, providing a blend of beauty-care and luxury.

Says hotel manager Richard Schmitz: "I have observed international beauty farms for many years and have visited them in the United States, where prices range around 1,000 dollars a week. This has prompted us to fill a need for which the market has been crying out by establishing such an institution in Baden-Baden, a city of fashion and beauty."

Herr Schmitz chose his partner with care, his philosophy being that those who operate with lotions and potions only stand no chance of surviving.

For Nina L. Walter, manager of the beauty farm, and her team lotions and potions are only part of the treatment.

The weekly programme is custom designed to suit the individual, with cosmeticians, masseurs, pedicurists and Yoga specialists looking after the customers.

For those with figure problems, chef Albert Keller is on hand to provide a suitable reducing diet.

A red rose at the breakfast table makes up for the lack of hot rolls and for the cottage cheese and margarine served instead of butter.

The veal steak for lunch and the capon for dinner compensate for the morning's starvation diet.

Frau Walter says: "We pull all stops in our one-week course of treatment, making use of the latest research results in cosmetics to restore youthful freshness to a tired skin."

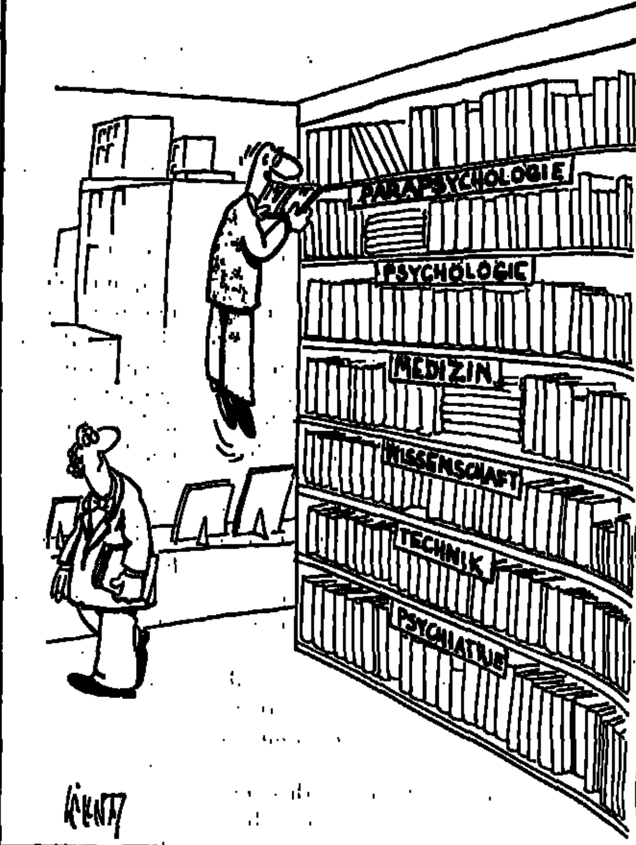
And speaking of tiredness, Frau Walter also looks after the stress-plagued manager who never gets a chance to pamper himself. For him, she has a daily three-hour course of treatment, including water gymnastics, which men particularly enjoy.

Apart from face packs, massages, gymnastics and Yoga exercises, the one week treatment is essentially intended to counter the stress of everyday life. There is ample opportunity for leisurely walks, a game of tennis or golf or just loafing.

A week at the beauty farm costs DM300 for non-residents. Prices for hotel guests start at DM1,100 a week. Dieter Jahn, Lancaster chief administrator, said: "It is obvious that we cannot make a profit charging non-residents DM300 a week in courses of no more than 12. But we consider this a service to our customers of many years' standing — a service which ties them even closer to us.

"Besides, we can win the participants over for our products, especially those who have hitherto used only soap and water or some other brand of cosmetics. This turns them into more than just customers; they become our PR representatives." *Lutz E. Dreesbach*

(Handelsblatt, 7 September 1979)



(Cartoon: Börsenblatt für den Deutschen Buchhandel)

A state of high flying dudgeon

A congress on Unidentified Flying Objects in Mainz has been closed to the Press.

The reason, said Karl L. Veit, is that Ufology is unintelligible to the man in the street.

Herr Veit is so determined to keep secret the inner secrets of the German Society for Ufo Research (of which he is president) that he won't tell interviewers how many members the society has.

(However, if an interviewer would like to write, Herr Veit would decide whether or not to release the information).

As a consolation, however, the ufologists are prepared to make public any resolution they pass at the end of the congress.

Herr Veit, a former artist and now editor-in-chief of a ufo magazine, told the Press that the media's reaction to previous ufo congresses had been so negative that not only had relations worsened between the Press and ufologists, but relations between ufologists had deteriorated.

German ufologists had not gone to the annual meeting of their British counterparts. So the British had refused to attend the Mainz conference.

Says Herr Veit: "The time of big international ufo congresses is over. Today, we remain in small circles."

This, of course, saves money, which is in short supply with most ufologists. Most of them would be hard-pressed to pay for a trip abroad.

The old ufologists' elan is a thing of the past. It was this elan that years ago made ufologist August Wörner file charges against Karl L. Veit for alleged espionage on behalf of an extraterrestrial power. Herr Wörner accused Herr Veit of conspiring with the little green men to take over the world.

The Mainz congress now accuses the Government of not taking ufos seriously enough. The ufologists' attitude has hardened — probably because of diminishing ufo sightings, growing scepticism and public ridicule.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 September 1979)

Ours is an age without guidance. Young people drop out, not knowing what to look for. They do not know whether they should move to the country or seek a career in the city.

Girls are at a loss whether to enlist in the armed forces or work in a bank. There is no sense of direction.

This has made for a boom for those providing counsel of any sort — and not only for leaders of religious sects but also for people having no other ambition than to provide signposts in a confused world, among them Hans-Georg Schnitzer, Karlheinz Graudenz and Rudolph Moshammer.

Hans-Georg Schnitzer's name is familiar to readers of the modern living pages of newspapers. Once a year, he is in the vanguard when the Dancing Teachers' Association, of which he is chairman, presents its dos and don'ts.

This year's rules of conduct centred on children, and they have every reason to be satisfied. Boys no longer have to bow and deep curtsies for girls are passé.

The pundits of manners hold that it is perfectly enough for children to look an adult in the eye when shaking hands and saying "Guten Tag" or "Auf Wiedersehen".

Parents are told that children are no subservients and that they should be treated with respect.

Karlheinz Graudenz, author of a 560-page tome, does not go quite that far. But even he arrives at the conclusion that children, too, are people.

On a more serious note, he tells the reader that it should be easy to teach good manners early in life. This goes from saying "please" and "thank you" all the way to bowing or curtseying to adults. It includes teaching children to be helpful and polite as it does teaching them table manners.

Changing behaviour patterns and plenty of advice

Graudenz is an authority who follows in the footsteps of Baron Knigge (the German Emily Post) who "invented" manners a couple of centuries ago. But as a man of our decade he has modified the rigid codes.

Even so, he still calls for a dark suit and white shirt when going to a concert, and a suitably matching dress for women. For theatre premieres he prefers a dinner jacket, though concedes that only elderly gentlemen still wear it today.

Ladies extend their greetings by a slight inclination of the head while a man lifts his hat, indicating a bow. The hat must be lifted about shoulder high.

Rudolf Moshammer, Munich's most expensive tailor, presents his advice in a — fortunately — very small 137-page volume.

He tells us what makes the citizen of today a well-dressed citizen.

Writes Herr Moshammer: "The gentleman believes that hosiery is much less important for him than it is for ladies. As a result, even the best-tailored trousers reveal socks that are much too short, frequently in garish colours and sagging. Everybody knows the unappetising sight of a hirsute leg. Horrible!"

(Die Zeit, 7 September 1979)

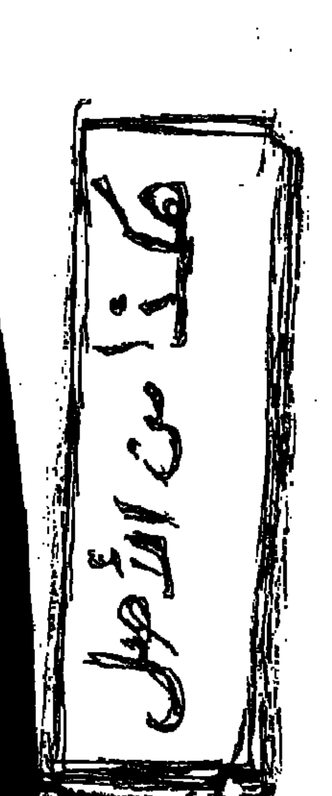
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■ SPORT

Oarsmen do well, but the eights have bad time

World champions have a hard time of it. After winning their finals in Bled, Yugoslavia, champion oarsmen had to clamber out of their boats to be presented with their gold medals by officials of the International Rowing Federation.

Silver and bronze medallists need not go to this trouble. The officials merely bow in their direction.

On 9 September Claus Hess, West German rowing association president, was on the dais three times to honour medallists from the Federal Republic, but only with a bow.

Peter-Michael Kolbe from Hamburg came second in the single sculls. Albert Hederich, Raimund Hörmann, Dieter Wiedenmann and Michael Dürch from Ingelheim and Ulm won the silver in the double fours.

Andreas Görlich, Frank Schütze, William Thiem and Wolf-Dietrich Oschlies from Dortmund, Hanover and Berlin came third in the coxed fours, with Manfred Klein as cox.

By this stage of the proceedings Dr Hess had already come to terms with a sad blow for West German rowing. It was 13 years since the West German eights had last won the world championship finals at Bled.

But the Ratzeburg eights, coached by the late Karl Adam, had never been out of the running. This time the West German eights never even reached the final.

For the first time in the history of the world championships they were ousted in the semi-finals.

Kolbe's silver medal confirmed his outstanding talent. He pulled off a near-miracle at the end of a season in which he has not been in full training.

But he stood no chance of stealing the show from Pertti Karppinen of Finland, who beat him to win gold at Montreal and beat him again to win gold in Bled.

He was, on the other hand, so well clear of bronze medallist Rüdiger Reiche from the GDR that he could afford to make the supercilious gesture of coasting past the post.

Quiet, hard work paved the way for silver in the double fours, who came third in New Zealand last year. They fully lived up to expectations at Bled and at an average age of 22 must surely have more to come.

They and Kolbe are clearly West Germany's white hopes of medals at next year's Moscow Olympics. The combined Ingelheim and Ulm double fours have come on well without serious problems.

Reiche's bronze medal and the third place of Moll and Winter were the GDR's worst ratings in Bled. Some 15,000 spectators lining one of the most picturesque regatta venues in the world saw the GDR win one event after another.

Pfeiffer, Übeler and Spohr won the coxed doubles, the Landvoigt brothers won the uncoxed doubles. It was gold for the GDR in all the fours events: as defending champion in the coxed fours and as unbeaten champion eight times in a row in the uncoxed fours.

In the double fours the GDR also maintained its unbeaten record since the event was introduced in 1974, while an impressive final win in the eights hammered home the message yet again.

The GDR equalled its own record, set up in 1974, of winning six titles in eight classes. Karppinen of Finland and the Hansen brothers from Norway in the doubles saved the world championships from utter monotony.

West Germany took home a much smaller bag of trophies, gratifying individually though they may have been. They included the medallists already mentioned and fifth and sixth places in the doubles for Wolke and Borchardt from Lübeck and Gress and Gentsch from Würzburg.

When GDR oarsmen claim the competition is extremely strong, as the Landvoigt twins did before their final in the uncoxed doubles, it usually means the competition gives them a run for their money.

But the Landvoigts maintained an enormous three-second lead in Bled. They are, after all, the reigning Olympic gold medallists and in Bled won their fourth world championship title since 1974.

Even in the GDR they are exceptional, but East Berlin and Dresden, Rostock and Magdeburg regularly produce first-rate youngsters, so much so that replacements are no trouble.

They are coached and prepared in the same way by equally qualified trainers and team doctors. The result is an alarming supremacy in the rowing world.

It is almost surprising the rest of the world has not abandoned the attempt to outrow the East Germans, but in fact a record number of competitors entered for the Bled world championships.

After a 13-year break an Egyptian eights were watched benevolently as they tried their hand at the 2,000m course, but they seem destined to remain outsiders. *Christiane Moravetz*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 September 1979)



Peter-Michael Kolbe (Photo: Werek)

Student medals in pentathlon, high jump



Ulrike Meyfarth (Photo: Werek)

Ulrike Meyfarth and Ina Losch, both from Leverkusen, near Cologne, won the first medals for West Germany at the Universiad, or world university athletics championships, in Mexico City this month.

Ulrike Meyfarth cleared 1.92m (6ft 3½in) in the high jump and was runner-up to Andrea Matay of Hungary, who jumped 1.94m (6ft 4½in).

But Munich Olympic gold medallist Ulrike managed to beat off the challenge by Italian world record-holder Sara Simeoni, who also failed to improve on 1.91m.

In the pentathlon Ina Losch came third with 4,272 points. Katerina Smirnova of the Soviet Union won gold with 4,497 and Sylvia Barlag of Holland silver with 4,206 points.

Würzburg fencer Hanns Jana won a third medal, coming third in the épée finals.

The sprint finals suffered from rainy, windswept weather. Marlies Göhr from Jena, GDR, failed to beat her world record. She won the 100m final in 11 sec, exactly the same time she had taken for the distance in her semi-final heat.

Mike Robertson of the United States, who had previously run the in Mexico in 10.08 and 10.07 sec, won the Universiad finals in 10.19 sec.

West German 400m specialists had little difficulty qualifying for the finals. Harald Schmid won his semi-final in 45.75 sec, Franz-Peter Hofmeister was second in his semi-final in 45.40 sec.

Doris Baum, from Grevenbroich, reached the final of the 100m hurdles in a semi-final time of 13.15 sec.

At the spot where Bob Beamon cleared his legendary and unrivalled 8.90m (29ft 2½in) in the long jump at the 1968 Mexico Olympics no-one could emulate him.

The Universiad gold medallist Valeri Podluzhnij of the Soviet Union had to make do with a distance of 8.15m (26ft 9in). *dpa*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 September 1979)

Cyclist just sneaks in

Dietrich Thurau from Frankfurt, runner-up in the world road-cycling championships, won the 100km circuit of Hamburg's Binnenalster Lake in 2 hours 7 min. 49 sec.

He was a mere 50m ahead of Günther Schumacher from Büttgen, near Cologne, also a former Olympic gold medallist and world champion.

Thurau and Schumacher made their break in the 49th of 55 laps, and the field failed to close the distance between them.

In the final sprint Klaus-Peter Thaler from Lövenich, near Cologne, led the field to come third, followed by Heinz Betz from Böblingen, near Stuttgart, Hans Hindelang and Swiss champion Hans-Jörg Amisegger.

Thirty-seven professional cyclists from 13 countries entered for the race, held on a 1.8km circuit. But three well-known entrants scratched at the last minute, much to the fans' disappointment.

They were former Italian world champion Francesco Moser, Belgian Six Day king Patrick Sercu and Knut Knudsen of Norway.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 September 1979)



West Germany beats Argentina 2:1

Klaus Allofs of Fortuna Düsseldorf puts in West Germany's first goal of the season past Argentina's goal-keeper, Vidalla and fullback van Tuyne in the 47th minute of the friendly match in West Berlin this month. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of Bayern-München scored the second in the 57th minute. Castro scored for the World Cup winners in the 84th minute. (Photo: Nordbild)